



*Office of the Workstream Lead, Vaccination Process & Workforce.
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Teil: (045) 988 363
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, Nás, Cill Dara, W91KDC2*

3rd August, 2021

Deputy Shortall,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 24823/21

– “To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to address the ongoing pattern of significant drops in the number of vaccines administered over each weekend; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position

The HSE is aware of the drops in number of vaccines administered over the weekends. There are several factors that have an effect on the weekend vaccination rollout.

Some mass vaccination centres have reduced access to facilities due to on-site events at weekends. For example, the Fairyhouse Racecourse is unavailable every Sunday due to racing events. The sites located at sports stadiums and racecourses need to close for sporting events and matches on some weekends. This affects the sites at the Aviva Stadium, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Croke Park, Limerick Racecourse, Galway Racecourse, Punchestown Racecourse, as well as several smaller GAA centres across the country.

In certain areas, there is reduced staff resourcing for weekends which affects the capacity of centres. There is also a higher rates of individuals not attending their appointments at weekends in some sites. The warm weather during the weekends has also contributed to this increase.

However, the National Covid-19 Vaccination Program has seen capacity increases for all sites every week since the start of the program in April. During the August Bank Holiday weekend, over 30,000 people attended walk in clinics at mass vaccination centres throughout the 43 vaccination sites across the country. This weekend, there is capacity for 45,000 to be vaccinated each day across the sites.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Walsh".

David Walsh

Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce