

Corporate Affairs Department

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8 December, 2021

Deputy Gino Kenny

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 56824/21 - *To ask the Minister for Health the reason cancer patients at St. James's Hospital were asked to attend the hospital recently for a Covid-19 booster vaccination but instead received an additional vaccination (details supplied) and were informed that they would be invited back in six months time for a booster shot; the reason they received a vaccination card which showed that they had received an additional Covid-19 vaccination dose while the Covid-19 booster dose box was left unchecked; the difference between these two categories; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that this has caused a level of confusion and anxiety amongst vulnerable patients; if another layer of treatment has been introduced; the reason there appears to be no information available on the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Kenny,

In line with the *Definition of Immunocompromised Relevant to Implementation of NIAC Guidance on Extended Primary Vaccination Issued 30 August 2021 taking account of September 2021 update to Table 5a.2 of Chapter 5a of Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland Updated 08 October 2021* (attached and available online), a small cohort of immunocompromised cancer patients requiring surgery were offered an additional dose of Covid vaccine prior to their surgery, to optimise their post-operative recovery. These patients will also require a booster dose five to six months following this additional vaccination dose. Another layer of treatment has not been introduced. The reason that the vaccination card showed that these patients received an additional vaccination dose is because this is an additional dose, not a booster dose.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Noel Gorman', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Noel Gorman

Chief Operations Officer