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30th September, 2021

Deputy Richard Bruton,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 45809

– “To ask the Minister for Health if arrangements are available for the vaccination of persons who cannot leave their homes for reasons of agoraphobia?”

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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 has established a programme to vaccinate individuals who are housebound. An individual is housebound if they are unable to leave their home at all, or if they require significant assistance to leave the house due to illness, frailty, surgery, disability, mental ill health or nearing end of life (end of life individuals require a GP / specialist palliative care team referral). Referrals for individuals living with agoraphobia will be accepted once this criterion is met and verified by referring clinicians.

Referrals can be submitted to the regional CHO Vaccination Team/Home Vaccination Team by the following:

- General Practitioner
- Residential Care Facility Person in Charge
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Primary Care Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Disability Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Mental Health Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Older Persons Service
- Person in Charge in Long Term Residential Care Facilities in the CHO area.

Referrals will not be accepted from any other referral source. This pathway has seen 5290 doses administered to housebound individuals around the country to date.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

David Walsh
Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce