



21st Feb. 2022

Deputy Aengus Ó'Snodaigh,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: aengus.osnodaigh@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 8460/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that there may be in very small number of cases between receiving a Covid-19 vaccine and shingles in some studies likely connected to the stress around receiving the vaccine; if such linkage was shown in Ireland; the additional steps that can be taken to make persons more at ease when they are being administered a vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó'Snodaigh,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been partially referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

I understand that the Minister has responded regarding your query on COVID-19 vaccines and shingles, advising that the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), as the regulatory authority in Ireland for medicines, medical devices and other healthcare products is responsible for monitoring the safety and quality of all medicines including vaccines that are licensed in Ireland.

In relation to the second part of the question regarding the additional steps to make persons more at ease during vaccination, I wish to advise that all vaccinators must undergo the approved training for the COVID-19 vaccination programme. This training includes exercises on communication with people who may have concerns about COVID-19 vaccines. Clinical guidance and other materials are provided to vaccinators to support them in addressing any concerns or questions from members of the public during the vaccination process.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Damien McCallion
National Director
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme