

26th July 2022

Ms. Neasa Hourigan, T.D.,
Dail Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 37238/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has be drawn to the fact that a number of non-patient facing senior mental health managers in CHO4 were offered first-dose Covid-19 vaccines in early January 2021 ahead of vulnerable patient and staff groups, including older adults residing in congregated settings and nursing staff working in these settings; his plans to investigate the number of senior managers who had considerable influence over the roll-out of the vaccine in local services who availed of priority vaccines at this critical stage of the pandemic in the knowledge that vulnerable patient and staff groups were not yet scheduled for vaccines; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

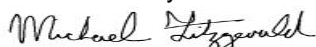
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy was informed by The Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups published by government on December 8th 2020 which outlined that residents and staff in Long Term Residential Care Facilities for Older People aged 65 years and older and all frontline Healthcare Workers would be the initial groups identified for vaccination. Staff in residential facilities for older persons were vaccinated on site in the facility along with the residents in the initial phase which commenced in late December 2020.

All other healthcare workers were offered sequenced appointments in centralised vaccination clinics set up specifically to vaccinate staff from late December 2020 onwards. This healthcare worker programme ran concurrently with the initial residential programme described above and its subsequent expansions.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare implemented directly or liaised with Acute Hospital Services on the delivery of vaccines in accordance with the provided guidance. I am taking it from your question that you have concerns that senior mental health management staff may have been vaccinated ahead of vulnerable clients and the residents and staff of our residential care facilities. I am not aware of any such deviation from the guidelines provided for individuals or groups of staff. However, if you have any information whereby staff were vaccinated outside of the provided parameters, please forward same to me and I will ensure that the matter is followed up appropriately.

Yours sincerely



Michael Fitzgerald
Chief Officer