

24th May 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: neasa.hourigan@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 17073/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the reasons that the first dose Covid-19 vaccination schedules for HSE patients can be released through freedom of information requests while the vaccination of HSE staff who were controlling the roll-out of the vaccine appear to not be accessible through the same process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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

In December 2020, the Government published a COVID-19 vaccination strategy and implementation plan. It provided the provisional sequencing for groups to be vaccinated based on clinical priorities and an ethical framework. In March 2021, the government approved an update to the COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Strategy. This strategy sets out the groups to be prioritised for vaccination to best achieve the vaccination programme's objectives of preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death. It is based on clinical, scientific and ethical frameworks produced by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health.

The plan consisted of the following Groups to be vaccinated in sequence:

- **Group 1.** People aged 65 years and older who are residents of long-term care facilities (likely to include all staff and residents on site)
- **Group 2.** Frontline healthcare workers
- **Group 3.** People aged 70 and older
- **Group 4.** People aged 16-69 with a medical condition that puts them at very high risk of severe disease and death
- **Group 5.** People aged 65-69 whose underlying condition puts them at a high risk of severe disease and death
- **Group 6.** Other people aged 65-69 Key workers essential to the vaccine programme
- **Group 7.** People aged 16-64 who have an underlying condition that puts them at high risk of severe disease and death.
- **Group 8.** Residents of long-term care facilities aged 16-64.
- **Group 9.** People aged 64 years and younger in the following order:
 - 64-55 years
 - 54-45 years
 - 44-35 years
 - 34-25 years
 - 24-16 years



In relation to personal vaccination records, under the Freedom of Information Act Section 37 personal information, of a medical nature, cannot be released.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Damien McCallion".

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