

22nd September 2022

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

PQ ref 43626/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the reasons that no paper records exist relating to the dates on which non-patient-facing HSE mental health managers in CHO4, including managers with involvement in the roll-out of the Covid vaccine to patients and frontline staff, were themselves offered first dose vaccines in 2021, despite the existence of records relating to the dates vaccines were offered to patients and frontline staff in the same CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

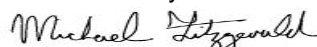
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As outlined in responses to previous parliamentary questions and representations on this matter, 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. As outlined in my response to PQ ref 37238/22, your question seems to imply 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. As previously stated, I am not aware of any such deviation from the guidelines provided for individuals or groups of staff. However, I again invite you to forward to me any information whereby staff were vaccinated outside of the provided parameters and I will ensure that the matter is followed up appropriately.

Yours sincerely



Michael Fitzgerald
Chief Officer