

25th July 2023

Dep Neasa Hourigan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 34032/23

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will bring the repeated failure on the part of Cork HSE mental health management to provide clarity in responses to numerous Parliamentary Questions on the alleged offering of first-dose Covid vaccines to non-patient-facing corporate staff, including management HSE staff, based in the Model Business Park, Cork in early January 2021, prior to the scheduling of vaccines for some of the most at-risk client and staff cohorts in congregated mental health settings, to the attention of the recently appointed HSE CEO; if the sequencing of vaccines by HSE managers to service-users and staff according to the agreed protocols will form part of the State's inquiry into its handling of the pandemic; 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.

From late December 2021 Healthcare workers were offered appointments in centralised vaccination clinics set up specifically to vaccinate staff in accordance with guidance issued by the HSE outlining the sequencing of vaccinations for healthcare workers. Staff were also offered vaccination at end of day clinics set up as part of other vaccination streams to ensure that all vaccine supplied was used and that there would be no dose discarded.

Vaccination records for healthcare workers are recorded and retained on the Covax IT system in the same way as for all members of the public, in the format of individual clinical records. The records are therefore subject to GDPR protections afforded to individual clinical records in regard to the confidentiality of such information.

Yours sincerely,



Gabrielle O'Keeffe
Head of Service for Health Wellbeing & Strategy