



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00343/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

10 February 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 7 January regarding COVID-19 vaccination prioritisation for non-NHS key workers.

Wales, in line with the other UK nations, is vaccinating people who are most at-risk of catching coronavirus and developing serious illnesses first, according to the recommendations from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). They have recommended the vaccine be offered to in the first instance to care home residents, care home staff, frontline health and social care workers, alongside people aged 80 and over.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-2-december-2020>

Those workers over 50 or with particular health conditions will be captured within this first phase of vaccination, when it is their turn according to the JCVI prioritisation.

The contribution of key workers during the course of the pandemic has been remarkable and I am incredibly grateful for everything that they have done under very difficult circumstances. However, if groups of workers, such as telecoms engineers, were prioritised for vaccination at an earlier point it would mean other groups who are more vulnerable to harm would have to wait longer.

Those under 50 will receive their vaccination as part of the second phase of deployment in due course. Prioritisation for the second phase will be considered by the JCVI who will consider a range of factors including occupational risk.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Wales Vaccination Strategy, published on 11 January, can be accessed below and offers more information on Welsh Government milestones and roll out of the programme:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-01/vaccination-strategy-for-wales_0.pdf

The success of the strategy will depend on Wales continuing to receive regular and reliable supplies of vaccine from the manufacturers. The UK Government is in charge of buying and coordinating the supply of vaccines for all the four nations in the UK.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services