



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/09915/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

10 February 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December on behalf of the Petition Committee regarding COVID-19 vaccine prioritisation for police officers in Wales.

Wales in line with the other UK nations is vaccinating people who are most at-risk of catching coronavirus and developing serious illnesses first, in line with 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 and health and social care workers, alongside people aged 80 and over. More information on how they reached their conclusions and details on at-risk groups (including those who have been shielding and/or have underlying health conditions) can be found at this link:

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

Whilst those working in the police force have not been identified as a specific priority group by the JCVI in the first phase of deployment, many individuals working in the sector may fall into the age-based or clinically vulnerable groupings on which roll-out will be based. Therefore, they will be offered the vaccine in line with their relative risk.

The JCVI is currently of the view that the key focus for the second phase of vaccination could be on further preventing hospitalisation. Vaccination of those at increased risk of exposure to the virus due to their occupation could also be a priority in the next phase.

I hope this information is helpful.

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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.

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