



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/10110/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

10 February 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 23 December concerning Petition P-05-1119 about prioritising teachers, school and childcare staff for COVID-19 Vaccinations

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.

We expect those under 50 will receive their vaccination as part of the second phase of deployment in due course. However, no UK-level decisions have been made on this yet.

The contribution of key workers during the course of the pandemic has been incredible. It is good that vaccine prioritisation is kept under constant review by the JCVI, especially in planning the next phase of cohorts.

If large groups of workers, such as teachers and childcare staff, were prioritised at an earlier point it would mean other groups who are more vulnerable to harm would have to wait longer.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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.

We will continue to review the JCVI advice. The Wales Vaccination Strategy can be found 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 style with a small dot above the 'i' in Gething.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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