



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



Mark Drakeford MS, First Minister,
Welsh Government,
By Email

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Re: Vaccination Rollout

Dear First Minister,

Janet.Finch-Saunders@Senedd.Cymru

It is with the utmost seriousness that I write to express my concerns and those of countless constituents with regards to the rollout of Covid-19 vaccinations across Wales, and in particular within the area managed by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

The Health Board assured me that:

- every household in North Wales would receive a letter last week. This has not happened in Aberconwy;
- all three Mass Vaccination Centres located in Bangor, Llandudno and Deeside are being used. I understand that Venue Cymru was not in use yesterday nor today, instead only operating three days a week;
- they are starting to deliver the vaccine with the support of primary care partners. This has seen GP practices insulted with vaccinations not arriving today, and deliveries cancelled;
- By the end of January, the aim is to vaccinate 90% of groups, including 80 years and above. Countless pieces of correspondence from concerned, elderly, and vulnerable residents falling into this category stands as evidence to the contrary, with many explaining they have not even received a letter offering a vaccination. How can it be right that Conwy County – which boasts the highest population of over 65s in Wales - is so far behind England?

Never before has the health service's postcode lottery under your Welsh Labour Government been so apparent. It is wrong that over 70s are being vaccinated in England whilst our over 80s are left in abeyance, across Aberconwy and beyond. This is a clear failure on your part, once again raising troubling questions over your devolved government's ability to oversee something as intrinsic as our National Health Service.

Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language, is stating that 'Vaccinations take place 7 days a week'. Where is this happening in Aberconwy?

Finally, you admitted on Radio 4's Today programme that our nation is not using all its available Pfizer vaccine to inoculate people as quickly as possible because you do not want to leave vaccinators standing around with nothing to do. I understand that your intention is to spread the vaccinations throughout the next few weeks rather than use them all up as fast as possible. Your actions amount to state-induced self-sabotage, introduced at further risk to lives and livelihoods up and down Wales.

[Cont...]



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The vaccination rollout is a race against the virus. To put it simply, the longer people are left waiting for the jab, the longer they are at increased risk of contracting the virus and dying. Wales needs to regain ground.

Whilst I urgently ask for you to retract your comments and ensure that all vaccines available to Wales are available to our people as soon as possible, such is the carelessness of the approach you have taken – one which could cost people their lives – that if you are unable to fulfil your obligations to safeguard our nation, I ask that you consider your position as First Minister.

Yours Sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS