

18th February 2021

To The Department of Health & Social Care

Dear Sir,

We write firstly to remind you that we are still waiting for a response to the comprehensive concerns we raised with you over 7 months ago. We will continue to remind you of this, until we receive a response.

Meanwhile we wish to raise yet another serious concern that has been brought to our attention, we are very aware that raising a further issue can often result in earlier concerns being avoided. So, to be clear, we expect full responses on **all** the issues raised.

We are encouraging people to have the vaccine; however, it has come to our attention that high risk vulnerable groups, are being offered appointments many miles away, in spite of having a local vaccine centre. We have been informed that people going to the website and entering their postcode are routinely being offered vaccines at centres up to 4 hours or more away. This will often involve people using public transport that has included multiply train and bus journeys.

Furthermore, if you log on to the vaccine booking site and the list of vaccine centres are all 4 hours or more away, and people cannot get to them, this is registered on the site as a missed appointment and the next visit to the site to check if a local centre is available, states you missed your last appointment.

Given the emphasis you are putting on the issue of being vaccinated, I am sure you will agree the booking system is a very real deterrent.

We suggest that the website only offers vaccines at local centres, if no appointments are available then people should be asked to check back later. People are being placed at needless risk of Covid infection because of long journeys on public transport.

We also need to know whether you are collecting data on how far people have to travel for a vaccine and if the associated risks have been assessed. We also want to know what arrangements are in place for elderly people who are not computer literate.

Yours Sincerely

Eileen Chubb