

## **Statement on behalf of the Non-Executive Directors of the Board of Beacon Hospital**

**Dublin, Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**, the non-executive directors of the Board of Beacon Hospital (the Board) commissioned, on March 29<sup>th</sup>, an independent review of the operation of the Vaccination Clinic at Beacon Hospital. Mr. Eugene McCague, former Managing Partner and Chairman of Arthur Cox and former Board member of the HSE was asked to undertake this review. Terms of Reference were agreed, and Mr McCague commenced his work on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The completed Review and its findings have now been considered by the non-executive directors of the Board.

The Review found that, notwithstanding the matter regarding the use of 20 surplus vaccine doses on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Vaccination Clinic was operated to the highest standards of corporate and clinical governance and that, at no cost to the State, more than 9,000 public health care workers were vaccinated in an efficient and effective manner. The Board of the Beacon Hospital is proud of the work undertaken, on a voluntary basis, by the staff at Beacon Hospital and of the contribution that this work and the use of the vaccination clinic has made to the overall public health system.

In addition to a review of all aspects of the operation of the Vaccination Clinic, a detailed analysis of the Clinic that took place on March 23<sup>rd</sup> was completed. The Board considered the specific findings in relation to the decision to offer vaccinations to 20 teachers at a school in Bray and all matters that led up to this decision. This analysis finds that there were a series of events that took place on that day which led to the point where there were 20 excess doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine that were at risk of going to waste.

The Board has considered this series of events, the decision making that brought this issue to the attention of the CEO and his rationale for offering the vaccines to the teachers.

As per the Review's findings, the Board acknowledges that the decision was not in line with National Vaccine priority list and did not have HSE approval. The Review also finds that there was an incorrect interpretation of the discretion available to Beacon Hospital to make decisions that would avoid any vaccine doses going to waste. The Board also acknowledge, as per the Review's findings, that notwithstanding the lateness in the day, the HSE cohort CHO6 should have been asked to provide health care workers even if there was no expectation that this would have been possible given the time of day.

The Board has considered all the facts that led to the situation arising - including the decisions that were made by clinical and operational staff overseeing the Clinic that day, the high volume of 'no shows,' and the information re: potential vaccine wastage that was shared with the CEO after the last scheduled appointments of the day. Having considered these facts, the Board accepts the view of the Independent

Reviewer that while the basis on which the decision was made to contact the school was incorrect, it was made in good faith.

We as a Board, regret that this series of events happened, and apologise for the upset caused. However, having considered the detailed Review and the Findings of the Independent Reviewer, the Board has determined that it retains full confidence in Michael Cullen, our CEO.

Michael has provided the hospital with strong leadership and vision resulting in substantial growth and expansion of patient services. We are confident that Beacon Hospital will continue to provide exceptional patient care into the future under his guidance.

The Findings of the review can be found here [www.beaconhospital.ie](http://www.beaconhospital.ie).

Ends/