



# PACAC (Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee)

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Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office  
By email

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

*Dear Michael,*

**Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee, Covid data inquiry:  
vaccination statistics**

As you are aware, my Committee is conducting an inquiry on Covid 19 data. We welcome the addition of vaccination statistics to the Covid 19 Government dashboard, and to the NHS England website. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those involved on administering the first 2 million vaccinations.

Our inquiries so far have highlighted how important it is that statistics are clearly and impartially presented, that they include adequate explanatory notes (including on limitations or uncertainties in the data), and are aligned to any stated targets (so that progress can be monitored and scrutinised). I am, therefore, writing to clarify some points on the vaccination statistics so that the sort of confusion that ensued over the testing data can be avoided. Any confusion over this data could be a distraction from the vital progress the Government are making on the vaccination effort.

1. **Please update and clarify the explanatory notes on the dashboard's vaccination statistics:** The section titled "People who have received vaccinations, by report date (daily)", contains explanatory notes that appear to relate to the (more accurate) weekly statistical releases. NHS England explains that daily data is "announced vaccinations" and is "provisional", whereas weekly releases "provides more accurate and detailed data". This sort of small inconsistency can lead to confusion later. Can the website be updated so that it explains whether the data is collected daily or weekly, whether it is provisional or final, and whether it is "announced" vaccinations, and what "announced" means.
2. **Please include breakdowns of data by targeted group:** The NHS England weekly data tells us whether those vaccinated are over or under 80, but contains no further

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breakdowns. This information is not included on the Government dashboard. Can you publish the data breakdowns for all 9 of the "high priority" groups, which we assume you are already collecting to track progress. This will be more important as some areas start to move down the priority list more quickly than others.

3. **Please provide local breakdowns to at least region:** you produce breakdowns of cases and other data to local area level. Vaccination statistics should be produced to this level of local granularity and should be explorable through the drop-down menus on the dashboard.
4. **Please include progress against targets on the website:** currently the dashboard and NHS England websites contain raw numbers, but these numbers are not meaningful unless we can see how this relates to overall numbers to Government. Can you publish your target numbers for each "priority group", or best estimates of the number of people in each "priority group", alongside numbers vaccinated so we can monitor progress.

I realise that Health is a devolved matter but it is vitally important that the public can see information across the UK. And it has been very helpful that data sets are already being published together to include Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. I would be grateful if you could update the Committee on the work that Cabinet Office is doing in its coordinating role to bring together data from all the nations and whether granular data for the other nations can be published alongside that for England.

I am copying this letter to Ed Humpherson, the statistics regulator, asking him to alert the Committee if he has any concerns about the vaccination data in the coming weeks and months.

*Yours ever*



**William Wragg MP**  
**Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee**