



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

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22 April 2021

Dear Guy,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 January to Matt Hancock on behalf of your constituent, Mr Tim Coulter, about vaccination against COVID-19. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in replying to you.

I understand Mr Coulter's concerns regarding vaccination against COVID-19 and personal choice, and I am grateful for taking the time to raise them with me.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has been involved in the global search for a vaccine. We have now accepted the recommendations from the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to authorise three COVID-19 vaccines for use, including Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford/AstraZeneca, and Moderna. This follows months of rigorous clinical trials and a thorough analysis of the data by experts at the MHRA, who have concluded that all three vaccines meet the regulator's strict standards of safety, quality, and effectiveness.

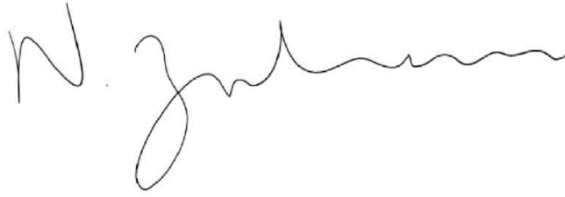
The UK currently operates a system of informed consent for vaccinations. Our objective is to vaccinate as many people as possible, in line with the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. We will continue to provide clear information to the public, encouraging people to seek the NHS's advice so that they have the right information to make an informed choice.

From the beginning of the outbreak, our policies have been guided by the advice of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, which is led by the Chief Scientific Adviser and Chief Medical Officer for England, and the response is kept under constant review.

It is essential that everyone continues to follow government guidance, whether they have had the vaccine or not, to protect the NHS and save lives. People must follow the rules to stop the spread of the virus.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and I hope that this reply is helpful to Mr Coulter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a large, stylized initial 'N' and a long, flowing horizontal stroke.

**NADHIM ZAHAWI MP**  
Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment  
Minister for Business and Industry