



8th April 2021

Ms Aoife Conduit and Ms Deirdre Shanley
Department of Education
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Dear Aoife and Deirdre,

The ASTI, INTO and TUI write jointly following the adoption of the resolution below at all our annual conferences. We write to seek an urgent meeting with Department officials on the matter of the vaccination roll out for teachers in post-primary, primary and special schools.

We are also very anxious to engage with relevant officials from your Department and/or from other relevant Government Departments to get clarity on timeframes for the vaccination of our members including those who are comprehended within groups above group nine.

We would also wish to discuss several anomalies in the roll out of the Vaccination Programme that have arisen, and which have impacted on educational settings already.

We are keen to work with you to progress the roll out of vaccines so that all teachers can be given assurance that they will be fully vaccinated at the earliest possible opportunity and that those identified in the motion below get priority within the education workforce

Emergency Motion

Congress

- a. *condemns the recent changes (issued on 30 March 2021) to the priority listing for teachers within the national vaccination programme, which were announced by Government without consultation with workers' representatives.*
- b. *demands that the government re-instates education staff as a priority group within the national vaccination programme, considering: the essential nature of their work which requires them to be in daily contact with a large number of persons from a large number of households and considering that social distancing is problematic and not assured given the crowded nature, structure and layout of our workplaces.*

- c. *further demands early vaccination within the overall cohort of education staff, for pregnant teachers, those in higher risk categories and those who work in special schools, special classes and home school community liaison teachers.*
- d. *In the event that Government does not agree to schedule by the end of the current school year, vaccinations on the basis demanded above, Congress instructs the Central Executive Committee/Executive Committee/Standing Committee to ballot members for industrial action, up to and including strike action.*

We look forward to an early engagement on the matters we have outlined.

Yours sincerely,



Kieran Christie
GENERAL SECRETARY
ASTI



John Boyle
GENERAL SECRETARY
INTO



Michael Gillespie
GENERAL SECRETARY
TUI