

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
TO A QUESTION POSED BY DEPUTY QUERPEL PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

1. Sadly as we all know, a number of islanders have lost their lives due to falling victim to Covid 19 in the past two years, so are you able to tell me please how many of those islanders were vaccinated and how many weren't?

30 deaths are currently being reported as the provisional total of COVID-19 deaths. This total may change after the attribution of cause of death coding. The number of vaccination doses received by those 30 individuals is shown below.

Vaccination doses at infection	No. of people
0, Vaccine not yet available	17
0, Vaccine available, not vaccinated	1
2 or more doses	12
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	30

2. Can you please tell me how many islanders have died of respiratory diseases other than Covid 19, such as flu and pneumonia for example, in the past two years and also provide me with a breakdown of those deaths?

The cause of death analysis for the years 2020 and 2021 have not yet been done due to resource constraints within the Public Health, Health Intelligence team as a direct result of the need to prioritise the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Can you tell me please how many islanders have been admitted to the PEH, or attended A+E, due to experiencing adverse reactions to Covid vaccines?

The Committee wishes to make clear that an observed association (ie. a symptom or set of symptoms that present in the hours, days, or weeks following the administration of a drug or vaccine) is not equivalent to causation (ie. it being established that those symptoms are a direct result of the administration of that drug or vaccine). It is therefore difficult to draw conclusive answers at this stage.

The Emergency Department estimates having seen fewer than 10 individuals, most of whom presented to the Department with predicted vaccine side effects such as muscle aches and a fever. An admission to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital, for observation or treatment, is due to the clinical picture of that individual. Should the treating clinician suspect vaccine involvement, a range of investigations and/or referrals to relevant specialists may be required to consider underlying or concurrent illnesses and other such events that might be coincidental to enable confirmation, or not as the case may be, of COVID-19 vaccine causation.

4. Can you please tell me how many adverse reactions to Covid vaccines have been reported via the Yellow Card system and what procedure is currently in place to register those adverse reactions?

The Yellow Card Scheme is an independent mechanism for reporting side effects or adverse reactions that occur at some point after vaccination - it does not represent confirmed COVID-19 vaccine reactions or injury data.

Weekly summaries of Yellow Card reporting can be seen here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-adverse-reactions>

Within the Princess Elizabeth Hospital, it can be confirmed that 9 Yellow Cards have been submitted in respect of vaccine side effects. One physician has recently advised of having seen 27 cases of likely vaccine side effects (in addition to the 9 which have been reported) but, at the time of writing, it has not been confirmed whether Yellow Cards have been submitted for those 27 cases. The clinician is aware of the professional duty to do so.

Further Yellow Cards may have been submitted through Primary Care, other health professionals or by individuals themselves.

Any member of the public or healthcare professional can report suspected side effects or adverse reactions to the MHRA. A local system is not maintained because the data generated from a small community like the Bailiwick would not suffice to draw valid scientific conclusions nor would any drug safety alert be established and notified with the urgency required.

5. It was reported in the Guernsey Press on January 14 that fellow islander Mr Bilal Assif was hospitalised with the heart condition Myocarditis after receiving his second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Mr Assif said in the report that he had no pre-existing health conditions prior to being vaccinated and yet the day after being vaccinated he had unbearable pains in his chest. He went to the A+E department at the PEH and consequently spent a week in hospital. Mr Assif also said in the report that he wasn't told about the possible adverse reactions to the vaccine and he felt people really needed to understand what the possible adverse reactions are, prior to deciding whether they want to be vaccinated or not. So with that in mind, can you tell me please what procedures do HSC currently have in place to ensure members of the public are fully aware of the possible adverse reactions to Covid vaccines?

While the Committee cannot comment on individual cases, it notes that the commentary in this question does not entirely reflect what was reported in the Guernsey Press article of 14th January in relation to being advised of possible side effects from vaccination. The article can be accessed [here](#).

The administration of any medicine carries an element of risk and it has been made clear very early on that the Bailiwick COVID-19 vaccination programme operates on a voluntary basis. All individuals who chose to attend for vaccination are provided with a patient information leaflet for the vaccine they are receiving. Prior to its administration, vaccinators confirm that the leaflet has been read, that the individual knows what to expect in relation to common side effects and answers any questions that individual might have. This is part of the informed consent process.

There is also a dedicated library of information on the States of Guernsey [website](#), including signposting to other reputable sources of information.