

Sent via Email.



23rd March 2021

Minister for Health & Social Services

Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Minister for Health & Social Services

Re: Mandatory Vaccination for Social Care workers

You will be aware that GMB union has actively encouraged our members to receive the vaccination against COVID-19 as soon as possible. We have worked with Welsh Government on addressing the shortfalls on sick pay to make sure that social care workers in Wales are not placed at a financial detriment if they fall ill or must isolate because of COVID-19.

The Telegraph reported today that leaked documents demonstrated that the UK Government were considering making vaccinations mandatory in the Social care sector. This was later confirmed by Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

GMB believes that this heavy handed, we-know-best approach will cause unnecessary anxiety and discontent when our care workers are still struggling with the consequences of the pandemic. GMB is concerned that a mandatory policy will lead employers into removing PPE/social distancing measures which will continue to remain necessary even when the majority of the population is vaccinated, GMB has already seen evidence that some employers are advising the workforce of this. GMB has continually called for employers to educate, encourage, and understand the reasons why any Social care employees may be concerned about receiving the vaccine; GMB is of the view that going down the road of forced vaccination is a dangerous path that could dissuade people from getting vaccinated.

Can you please confirm that Welsh Government is not contemplating mandatory vaccination for a select group of workers?

Yours Sincerely

Kelly Andrews
GMB W&SW Social care lead.