



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ82524

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Dear Darren,

In response to your recent Written Question: Given the ethical concerns held by some people in Wales regarding the use of cell cultures derived from foetal cells in the development of coronavirus vaccines, what assurances will the Minister provide that alternative vaccines will be offered to people in Wales, should they become available?

All the COVID-19 vaccines approved as safe and effective for use in the UK by the MHRA, have used foetal cells in some way, either in their development or testing. This means that, currently, there are no approved vaccines available without some use of foetal cells, though none of the vaccines contain these cells when administered.

If additional vaccines that do not use these cells were to become approved for use by the MHRA, then it is the responsibility of UK Government, through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to procure and supply these vaccines on behalf of the four UK Nations. This means that all four UK Nations will receive their proportional share of whatever vaccines BEIS buys. Wales would receive its corresponding share of what is procured and deploy these in line with JCVI advice. UK Government does not share, for commercial reasons, any detail regarding the future procurement of potential vaccines, including those which may be developed without the use of foetal cells.

Due to supply and logistical constraints, it has not been possible to allow people to choose which vaccination they receive. However, we remain committed to ensuring that everyone can have the right vaccine at the right time, in line with JCVI advice.

Patient leaflets and information are available on the current approved vaccines to people prior to vaccination so they can make an informed decision.

[Regulatory approval of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Regulatory approval of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

[Regulatory approval of COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Regulatory approval of COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services