



GOVERNMENT U-TURN ON MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE WORKERS - ENGLAND

1st February 2022

After months of campaigning by GMB and other health unions and organisations, yesterday (31st January 2022) the Government in England announced that they would no longer be pursuing their policy mandating the health and social care workforce to have the Covid-19 vaccine.

GMBs position on mandatory vaccines has been consistent throughout - whilst we support the vaccine programme, we oppose legally enforced medical procedures as a condition of employment - it is heavy handed and will deepen the staffing crisis in health and social care.

Unfortunately, this Government U-Turn has come too late in the day for thousands of workers in our care homes who were subjected to this legislative change in November 2021. Many care workers chose to leave employment rather than face dismissal and we have already seen the same happening across the health service.

The Government have announced that they will now launch a consultation to consider whether they should revoke this legislation. More details will follow as it becomes available and we understand how this will impact on workers across health and social care.

Any worker who was set to face dismissal on 1st April 2022 as a result of not being vaccinated, should no longer be facing formal procedures at work whilst this consultation takes place. NHS Trusts have been contacted and advised **not to serve any notices of termination.**

If you need any advice or support regarding this please contact your local GMB Representative.

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