

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TEL 020 7591 3200

e-mail: info@esauk.org

4th December 2020

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Dear Secretary of State,

Waste key worker prioritisation to receive the covid-19 vaccine

We are writing to you as providers of essential services to homes and businesses across the country, which have proven resilient throughout the covid crisis thanks to the hard work of our employees and the support of the Government. Now that a vaccine has been approved, we ask that our front-line workers are prioritised to receive the vaccine after the elderly, the vulnerable, and the health workers upon whom we also all rely.

Our respective companies perform waste and recycling collections, as well as thermal treatment (and construction thereof), for almost half of councils in England and treat the vast majority of the nation's waste, employing around 40,000 workers. At this time of national crisis we have done what was necessary to continue to provide our essential service to our communities.

We have worked hard to put in place the necessary mitigating measures to protect the health and safety of our employees, many of whom have also been asked to handle increased volumes of healthcare waste, which will also increase further as a result of the roll-out of a mass vaccination programme. The management of these wastes will be critical and in our view those asked to carry it out should certainly be granted early access to the vaccine.

www.esauk.org

154 Buckingham Palace Road London SW1W 9TR

Tel: 020 7824 8882 Fax 020 7824 8753 e-mail info@esauk.org

Environmental Services Association Ltd. A company limited by guarantee. Reg no 962961 London. VAT no 243 8018 73

We were grateful to be recognised by the Government as key workers earlier in the pandemic. Now that everyone's hopes of an approved vaccine have been realised, we ask that you and your officials consider the appropriate prioritisation of waste industry key workers to receive the vaccine so that we may continue to maintain waste services protecting the public health.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jacob Hayler, Executive Director, Environmental Services Association

Michael Topham, CEO, Biffa plc

Roger Hewitt, Executive Chairman, Castle Environmental

Dougie Sutherland, CEO, Cory Riverside Energy

Ute Fleck, Director, CNIM UK

Roger Morton, Managing Director for Technology & Innovation, EMR Group

Paul Taylor, CEO, FCC Environment UK

Neil Grundon, Deputy Chairman, Grundon

Mike Hill, CEO, Hills Group

John Scanlon, CEO, Suez recycling and recovery UK

Gavin Graveson, Executive Vice-President UK and Ireland, Veolia

Phil Piddington, Director, Viridor