



**Member Communication**  
**COVID-19 Vaccinations for Roadside Recovery Operators**  
**18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 AVRO wrote to both the UK Government and ROI Government regarding the prioritisation of COVID-19 vaccinations and requesting that roadside recovery operators be considered within any prioritisation planning for vaccinations due to the vital service they provide.

AVRO wrote:

*As you will know, the 24hr roadside recovery industry is one that plays a vital part in not only keeping the roads of the UK clear and safe for all but provides a vital service to members of the public as well as local authorities, Police, Fire and Ambulance services to name a few. Our industry is one that has risen to the challenge this pandemic has presented and has played its part as a critical service and key works.*

*We appreciate that many groups of individuals need to be prioritized for vaccinations, such as HM Forces, Emergency Services and of course those involved in the provision of health and human services.*

*With that we would highlight to you the status of the roadside recovery industry in the critical service it provides and indeed in its unofficial capacity as the 4<sup>th</sup> emergency service that our industry must be included in any vaccination programme.*

*Our members operating and assisting members of the public are on the front line and are exposed to COVID-19 daily. They take heed to all guidance and regulation, but the work of our industry is re-active, and each individual situation presents a chain of events that must be managed – the work and service required of our members is not one that can be easily diminished.*

We were extremely pleased to receive a reply on the 10<sup>th</sup> February from the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport who replied:

*As you recognise the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that Phase 1 of the vaccination programme should target care home residents and staff, followed by people over 80 and health and social care workers, then other people in order of age and risk. This prioritisation captures almost all preventable deaths from COVID-19, including those associated with occupational exposure to infection.*

*Prioritisation decisions are based on an individual's risk of being severely affected by the virus, not their likelihood of spreading it, and on the maintenance of health and social care systems.*

*As such, the JCVI does not advise further prioritisation by occupation during the first phase of the programme but the JCVI have recommended that vaccination of those at increased risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 due to their occupation should be a priority in the next phase, including transport workers. The Department for Transport recognises the critical role that transport workers, including roadside assistance, have played and continue to play in keeping Britain moving.*



*We are working with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to explore the evidence for prioritising workers in the transport sector in Phase 2. At this point we are unable to anticipate the outcomes of these decisions or when the rollout of Phase 2 may begin.*

Although this does not provide a guarantee that roadside recovery operators will be included at this stage, it does at least give confidence that the vital role and services the roadside recovery industry provides is being considered and factored into any review of prioritisation of COVID-19 vaccination.

At this time, our communication with the ROI Government has been acknowledged and we await their response.