

President Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC

United States of America

12th March 2021

**Re: Authorising export of US-produced Covid 19 vaccines to Ireland and EU**

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to you ahead of your bilateral meeting with An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the long and deep cultural, economic and Historical links between the United States of America and Ireland.

While there will be many issues to discuss at this meeting, the issue of the Covid 19 pandemic and the global response to it will no doubt be on the agenda.

Since the rollout of the vaccine programme in early January 2021, Ireland has been to the forefront in administering its vaccines to its people as quickly as humanly possible. There are no vaccines lying in refrigerators in our country. Our only limiting factor is supply.

As you are aware, Ireland is part of the EU-wide vaccine procurement programme. I supported this initiative when it was adopted, and still support it today, because it shows solidarity and ensures fairness in allocations.

However, many of the pharmaceutical companies, the EU has made agreements, which have failed to meet their obligations in terms of supply. This is causing Ireland to suffer.

Mr. President, the United States is currently sitting on a stockpile of upwards of 40 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. At present, it has not been authorised for use in the US.

There is a global need to vaccinate people everywhere as quickly as possible. While I respect your right to protect the wellbeing of your citizens above others, I believe the United States, with its massive industrial capacity, can afford to share a proportion of these stockpiled vaccines with other countries such as Ireland.

I would urge you to consider any request from An Taoiseach, or indeed the European Union, to relax the export bans currently in operation in the United States and allow us to make use of these precious vaccines.

Mr. President, we, as a people, look to the United States with respect, and with gratitude, for your global leadership. Your new administration has a chance to reset the dial when it comes to international relations, and I hope you take the opportunity to, once again, show the world that America is ready to lead again.

With warm regards,



**Billy Kelleher MEP**