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Group: Communication Workers Union

@CWUnews

From the office of **Dave Ward** General Secretary

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Our Ref: GS/AT/JDD

14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

### **Vaccinating Key-Workers**

I am writing to you as General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union, which is the largest union in the post and telecommunications sectors in the UK. We represent almost 200,000 frontline workers in these industries.

Throughout the pandemic, despite the personal risk to themselves and their families, as key workers our members have continued to go out to work every day to provide a vital public service keeping the country connected. With the recent increase in the spread of the virus, this has become increasingly difficult. Sick absence is rising at a rapid rate and the continued operation of the essential services that our members provide is coming under increasing strain.

For many of them, some level of contact with other workers and members of the public is unavoidable, for example in a delivery office or a mail centre, going into someone's home as an engineer or serving customers in a Post Office. In these jobs our members are delivering letters, test kits and medicines, they are keeping our telephone and broadband networks running and the government needs to ensure these services keep operating.

I am therefore calling on the government to urgently work with unions and employers to ensure that once those in the first four priority groups have been vaccinated, key workers who are playing an essential role for the country and are at heightened risk are included in the priority groups for the next phase of the vaccination programme.

This is both the right thing to do when we are asking these workers to keep essential services running and a crucial step in order for these services to continue operating over the coming months.

**General Secretary: Dave Ward**

Facebook: Dave Ward CWU @DaveWardGS

I would urge the government to work with trade unions and employers on this and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Ward." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

DAVE WARD  
**General Secretary**

Cc: Nadhim Zahawi, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment – [minister.zahawi@beis.gov.uk](mailto:minister.zahawi@beis.gov.uk))

Cc: Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - [secretary.state@beis.gov.uk](mailto:secretary.state@beis.gov.uk)