

West Lothian Council SNP Group

Leader: Cllr Janet Campbell
Depute Leader: Cllr Frank Anderson
Secretary: Cllr Sarah King

Dico Tibi Verum, Libertas Optima Rerum Nunquam Servili!



Agenda Item 12

MOTION

Council Meeting 23rd November 2021

SUDDEN CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT BY WESTMINSTER GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER COVID-19 VACCINES BY VALNEVA LIVINGSTON

The sudden and completely unexpected announcement by Sajid Javid, UK Government Health Secretary to cancel the contract with Valneva in Livingston has been a complete shock to everyone, including the company, the workforce, the Scottish Government, West Lothian Council and all elected representatives.

The UK Tory Health Minister has cited the company's breaching of its obligations under the supply arrangements as the reason for the abrupt cancellation of the contract without any discussion with the company – which they strenuously deny.

The Valneva vaccine is the only inactivated, adjuvanted whole virus vaccine against Covid-19 in clinical trials in Europe – this point was made by the UK Vaccine Taskforce when it gave its backing to Valneva in 2020.

The MHRA approval of the vaccine will be based on the outcome of Phase 3 trials – these trials were due to end in October; the data collected is being analysed this month with the vaccine due for approval in December.

There is therefore absolutely no evidence on which Sajid Javid can state “the vaccine will not be approved”.

This decision is a hammer blow to the West Lothian community as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. Producing this vaccine, here in Livingston will create an additional 200 positions with many highly skilled, well paid jobs supplementing the West Lothian workforce.

West Lothian Council therefore agrees to:

Write to Sajid Javid, Westminster Tory Health Secretary and demand he reconsider his decision and meet with Valneva management team to discuss reinstating the contract he has breached;

Write to Hannah Bardell MP and all West Lothian MSP's and tell them that West Lothian Council are fully behind them in all efforts to ensure Valneva Covid-19 vaccine production in Livingston finds the widest possible marketplace; and support all efforts to put pressure on the Westminster Government to reinstate the contract with Valneva.

Councillor Campbell SNP Group Leader

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