



The Educational  
Institute of Scotland

Ms N. Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister  
Scottish Government

LF/KN/Sturgeon070621  
07 June 2021

***By email only***

Dear Nicola

I write to share an EIS policy adopted by EIS Council earlier this year:

“That this Council calls on the Scottish Government to support the calls for coronavirus vaccine production to be patent free worldwide.”

The EIS believes that all people should have equality of access to an effective coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccine and that countries should be able to manufacture their vaccines during a pandemic.

It has been estimated that more than 80% of the approximately 1.3 billion coronavirus vaccines administered worldwide to date have been used by high-income countries. The pandemic, however, is worldwide and is hitting countries such as India, South Africa and Mexico hard. The number of vaccines given so far in Africa is a little more than one dose per person for some 2% of Africa’s 1.2 billion people. The EIS calls on the Scottish Government to support the calls for coronavirus vaccine production to be patent free worldwide.

Such a policy to waive patents on Covid-19 vaccines is supported by a growing number of developing countries and now appears to be backed by the United States, China and Russia. Furthermore, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations AIDS charity, UNAIDS support such a waiver.

With the G7 Summit coming later this week, the EIS believes that this is an opportune moment for the Scottish Government to add its voice to support coronavirus vaccine production to be patent free worldwide.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Larry'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a sharp hook at the end.

Larry Flanagan  
General Secretary

CC Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister