

# COVID-19 VACCINE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT BILL

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### What these notes do

These Explanatory Notes relate to the Covid-19 Vaccine Diagnosis and Treatment Bill as introduced in the House of Commons on 16 November 2022 (Bill 93).

- These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by Sir Christopher Chope MP in order to assist the reader of the Bill and to help inform debate on it. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- These Explanatory Notes explain what each part of the Bill will mean in practice; provide background information on the development of policy; and provide additional information on how the Bill will affect existing legislation in this area.
- These Explanatory Notes might best be read alongside the Bill. They are not, and are not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill.

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## Overview of the Bill

- 1 The Covid-19 Vaccine Diagnosis and Treatment Bill seeks to improve the diagnosis and treatment of those who have suffered or continue to suffer ill-effects from Covid-19 vaccines.

## Policy background

- 2 The background to the Bill is that on 21 July 2022, the then vaccines Minister told the House:

“In the very rare event where an individual may have suffered a severe adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, care would usually be managed by local National Health Service specialist services, supported by national specialist advice if required. Continuing care would be met by local care services with expertise in the treatment of disease or disability, as appropriate.”
- 3 Regarding reports of adverse effects from Covid-19 vaccinations, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency’s Summary of Yellow Card Reporting reported on 2 November 2022 that:

“As of 26 October 2022, for the UK, 175,426 Yellow Cards have been reported for the monovalent and bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer/BioNTech, 246,638 have been reported for the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, 45,946 for the monovalent and bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna, 37 for the COVID-19 Vaccine Novavax and 1,976 have been reported where the brand of the vaccine was not specified.”
- 4 There is a precedent for what is proposed in the Bill in Germany, where Marburg University Hospital has established a clinic specialising in the diagnosis and treatment of post-vaccination syndrome resulting from Covid-19 vaccinations.

## Commentary on provisions of Bill

### Clause 1: Diagnosis and treatment of persons who have suffered adverse effects from Covid-19 vaccinations

- 5 This imposes a statutory duty on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to improve the diagnosis and treatment of those who have suffered or continue to suffer ill-effects from Covid-19 vaccines.
  - a. Subsection (2) sets out a specific requirement for contact to be made with each patient in respect of whom an adverse effect of a Covid-19 vaccination is or has been reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.
  - b. Subsection (3) sets out time limits within which such contact with the patient or the patient’s registered medical practitioner must be made.
  - c. Subsection (4) provides that the patient should be requested to submit details of any adverse effect, whether or not it still persists, what diagnosis has been carried out and what treatment is being administered. The patient should also be asked about any impact on daily life, including ability to work, and be invited to attend a medical appointment with an appropriate practitioner.

## **Clause 2: Clinics and research for diagnosis and treatment**

- 6 This clause requires the Secretary of State to bring forward proposals, within 28 days of the Act being passed, for establishing specific clinics in England for the diagnosis and treatment of patients who have suffered adverse effects from a Covid-19 vaccination, and for funding research into such diagnosis and treatment.

## **Clause 3: Extent, commencement and short title**

- 7 Clause 3 provides that the Act extends to England and Wales, that the Act will come into force on the day on which it is passed, and that the short title of the Act will be the Covid-19 Vaccine Diagnosis and Treatment Act 2022.

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