

Campaigners denounce government's crony privatisation of vaccination

Four days ago Oxfordshire campaign group Keep Our NHS Public warned:

We are concerned to hear that ... private companies are recruiting vaccinators. We have seen this government-imposed, centralised drive to privatisation throughout the pandemic.

We now hear that, next week, a vaccination centre is scheduled to open at the Kassam stadium Oxford. Staff are being recruited by Medacs, a private company. Medacs has [advertised](#) to recruit band 5 & 6 nurses, GPs, dentists, student nurses and others. Nurses have offered to take part in the vaccine programme as NHS staff and have been turned down.

[Medacs](#) is part of Impellum Group plc, in which Lord Ashcroft has a significant interest. Lord Ashcroft, a well-known tax exile, is the powerful former deputy chair of the governing Conservative Party.

Medacs has been commissioned by the BOB Integrated Care Service (ICS) (the combined three Clinical Commissioning Groups for Bucks, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire). This is the very body about whose unaccountability KONP has been warning for well over a year.

The 'chief accountable [sic!] officer' of the BOB ICS is a Dr James Kent. Dr Kent was Theresa May's health adviser. He will know Lord Ashcroft, the tax exile and former deputy chair of the governing Conservative Party, who has a significant interest in Impellum Group plc which owns Medacs.

The December [announcement](#) by Medacs indicates the importance of this and other similar contracts for Medacs and it's an indication of the government's intention to privatise vaccination delivery that can and should be done by the NHS, GPs, and local chemists. They have the capacity.

As KONP said in its earlier press statement (see below): *Surgeries reported they could deliver 6 to 10 times more vaccination doses than they are being supplied.*

Oxon KONP secretary Bill MacKeith said:

This is back-door crony privatisation being rushed through during Covid. It is shameful and should be denounced by Oxfordshire's elected representatives, councillors, and members of parliament.

They must demand that profiteers should not be part of vaccination delivery, which should be put into the hands of properly funded, accountable local NHS and public health teams, GPs, and chemists.

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Contact: Bill MacKeith 01865 558145 bmackeith@gmail.com