

10.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Proposed support mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines

11. A dedicated COVID-19 vaccine scheme would be designed around the following key principles:

- It should be **consistent**: with the same scheme being offered regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was administered. We may end up with a 'mixed economy' model, whereby different vaccines are given to different cohorts at different times. It may even be that the same person receives different vaccines at different times depending on vaccine availability and evidence about their efficacy.
- It should be **non-mandatory**: we would not insist that people used the scheme but would rely on them being incentivised by the scheme being quicker, less costly, and with more guarantee of a settlement at the end, than going through protracted litigation.

- **Time-limited**: we would set a time limit within which claims could be brought.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

- It would **exclude children**: we have no intention (as yet) to include children in the cohorts being offered the COVID-19 vaccine and excluding children from the scheme would make it cheaper and less complicated (VDPS does cover children).

- **Confidential**: Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

This avoids intensive media coverage and would help maintain public confidence in the vaccine. Litigation in open court is best avoided so as to prevent litigation being used as a platform for anti-vaxxers.

- It would **preclude litigation** being sought separately, or afterwards. Reaching settlement through the scheme would remove the right to litigation. On Irrelevant & Sensitive the argument has always been that ADR is better than the courts. Litigation tends to be a protracted, openly public and costly affair which has the potential to result in much higher costs and impacts on public confidence.
- Ideally, costs would be **capped, or shared** with the pharmaceutical companies.
- It should go **above and beyond the VDPS**, not only to ensure fair recompense, but also to deal with the administrative burden of the expected large size of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- Includes careful consideration of any **potential abuses** of the mechanism

12.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

we do not yet know what vaccine(s) we will be using, and what unintended health impacts we may be agreeing to provide support for. It is likely, therefore, that any scheme established now would merely provide the framework, with details finalised once we have more clarity over the COVID-19 vaccine programme being delivered in the UK.

13. Such a COVID-19 vaccine-specific compensation mechanism should provide the reassurance that the pharmaceutical companies need, but that doesn't let them off