

## JCVI submission of 17 May 2023

### PE1939/F: Amend the date of birth to allow wider accessibility to the HPV vaccination programme for boys

The question is to seek clarification on the reasons why young males living in England appear to be afforded protection that is not available to young males living in Scotland. The person responsible for the petition is saying that their son was born in September 2006 and therefore was in year S2 when the programme for boys started.

The Green Book guidance on Immunisation against infectious disease states that HPV vaccination is routinely recommended for all girls and boys at 11 to 14 years of age with the first dose offered in school year 8 in England and Wales, S1 in Scotland, and school year 9 in Northern Ireland. This is based on the JCVI advice issued in 2008 for a routine programme for girls aged 12-13. The age was not raised in July 2018. What changed was that starting in the academic year 2019/20 boys were included in the routine HPV immunisation programme which was a policy decision based on the JCVI advice issued in July 2018. JCVI advice is published, and it is up to the NHS in each of the nations of the UK how to operationalise JCVI's advice and to plan implementation. Year S1 in Scotland covers the ages 11-12 whilst year 8 covers ages 12-13. The decision to offer vaccination in year S1 does not lie with JCVI as it is for Scottish policy and the Scottish NHS to decide how to operationalise JCVI advice.

Currently the programme has a two dose schedule but for the academic year 2023/24 the HPV programme will move to a single dose schedule.