Covid-19: Campaign takes on Pfizer’s “profiteering”

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Campaigners from the People’s Vaccine Alliance last week dumped wheelbarrows and sacks full of fake cash outside Pfizer’s UK offices in Surrey to highlight what they claim is the company’s pandemic profiteering.

The protest was part of a campaign mounted by 20 global health organisations that sent an open letter to the company warning its executives they had “blood on their hands” because of its monopolies on covid-19 vaccine and treatment technologies.

The letter stated that, though Pfizer almost doubled its annual revenue to $81.3bn (£65bn; €77.3bn) in 2021, it has contributed to a 15 billion dose gap in global supplies needed for 2022.

The World Health Organization has also named Pfizer among the drug companies which it believes should be doing more to improve covid vaccine equity and access.

In response to the claims Pfizer said it was “firmly committed to equitable and affordable access to the Pfizer-BioNTech covid-19 vaccine to help bring an end to the pandemic for everyone, everywhere.”

“As of 3 April nearly 3.3 billion Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have been shipped to 179 countries in every region of the world.”

1 Wise J. Covid-19: Drug companies urged to share vaccine technology to boost equity and access. BMJ 2022;377:o1086. doi: 10.1136/bmj.o1086 pmid: 35483726

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