

FOI 2108

26/01/2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Are the following entitled to free parking at your hospital(s) car parks - indicate Y or N**- disabled people**

No. Disabled drivers are not entitled to free parking but the majority of disabled parking spaces on hospital sites are located in non-pay car parks. If disabled drivers chose to park in a pay car park then they are charged the same rate as other drivers.

- frequent outpatient attenders

Yes. Nursing staff can exercise discretion to apply the free parking eligibility criteria where the duration and/or frequency of visits lead to significant charges incurred by patients or relatives.

-parents of sick children staying overnight

Yes. Nursing staff can exercise discretion to apply the free parking eligibility criteria where the duration and/or frequency of visits lead to significant charges incurred by parents of sick children staying overnight.

- staff working night shifts

No. Staff working nights are not entitled to free parking but the majority of parking spaces on hospital sites are free. If staff choose to park in a pay car park they are charged the same rate as the public.

2. Are the following entitled to free parking at your hospital(s) car parks- indicate Y or N**- visitors with relatives who are gravely ill****- visitors to relatives who have an extended stay in hospital****- carers of people in the above groups**

The Trust currently applies the free car parking eligibility criteria, in accordance with the DoH Policy for Car Parking Provision and Management in the HSC Sector (2012) as per the table below.

Care Path	Application of Free Car Parking			
	Patient	Next of Kin/Partner	Relative	Visitor
Radiotherapy Chemotherapy	Yes	Yes if transporting patient	Yes if transporting patient	N/A
Renal dialysis	Yes	As above	As above	N/A
Critical Care/ High Dependency	N/A	Yes	Discretionary	Discretionary

Nursing staff can also exercise discretion to apply the free car parking eligibility criteria in other situations, eg where the duration and/or frequency of visits lead to significant charges incurred by patients or relatives.

3. Are the following entitled to reduced charge parking at your trust hospital(s) car parks - indicate Y or N

-disabled people

No, disabled drivers are not entitled reduced parking charges but the majority of disabled parking spaces on hospital sites are located in non-pay car parks. If disabled drivers chose to park in a pay car park then they are charged the same rate as other drivers.

- frequent outpatient attenders

No, however Nursing staff can exercise discretion to apply the free parking eligibility criteria where the duration and/or frequency of visits lead to significant charges incurred by patients or relatives.

-parents of sick children staying overnight

No, however Nursing staff can exercise discretion to apply the free parking eligibility criteria where the duration and/or frequency of visits lead to significant charges incurred by parents of sick children staying overnight.

- staff working night shifts

No, staff working night shifts are not entitled to reduced parking charges but the majority of parking spaces on hospital sites are free. If staff choose to park in a pay car park they are charged the same rate as the public. However there is a Voluntary Pay Scheme which is open to all staff and under this scheme staff currently pay £30 monthly for a guaranteed parking space.



4. Are the following are entitled to reduced charge parking at your trust hospital(s) car parks - indicate Y or N

- visitors with relatives who are gravely ill
- visitors to relatives who have an extended stay in hospital
- carers of people in the above groups

Reduced parking rates do not apply at Trust hospital car parks. See response at No. 2 above.

5. What is the reduced charge for parking at your hospital(s) for those groups who qualify? Please list

Reduced parking rates do not apply at Trust hospital car parks, however there is a Voluntary Pay Scheme which is open to all staff and under this scheme staff currently pay £30 monthly for a guaranteed parking space.

6. Are any of the groups above required to pay in advance and then claim them money back for free parking or reduced charge parking at your hospital(s)? Please list

Anyone who uses a paid car park and meets the free parking eligibility criteria are not required to pay in advance, with the exception of users of the “pay and display” car park on the Daisy Hill Hospital site.

In addition to the groups above, anyone who is entitled to be refunded travel costs under the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) is required to pay their parking charge in advance.

Refunds are claimed back at the hospital cashier’s office.

7. Who manages your hospital(s) carparks?

The Trust currently manages the day-to-day operational management of the hospital car park systems and a parking enforcement company provides an enforcement service on designated areas on hospital sites.

8. How many parking charge notices have been issued at the trust hospital (s) car parks for breaches of parking rules during the past 12 months (or the most recent figures available for a 12 month period)?

Daisy Hill Hospital Parking Charge Notices issued:	378
Craigavon Area Hospital Parking Charge Notices issued:	776



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9. How many appeals have been lodged against the parking charge notices during the past 12 months (or the most recent figures available for a 12 month period)

Daisy Hill Hospital Appeals received 133

Craigavon Area Hospital Appeals received 448

10. How many appeals saw a successful outcome for the claimant during the past 12 months (or the most recent figures available for a 12 month period)

Daisy Hill Hospital Appeals accepted 61

Craigavon Area Hospital Appeals accepted 247

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