



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
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13<sup>th</sup> of August 2020

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 19370/20

Question: *To ask the Minister for Health the policies and procedures in place regarding hospital car parking charges for healthcare workers during the Covid-19 pandemic; if the measures will return to normal; if so, when it will take place; the efforts made by his Department and the HSE to liaise with local authorities to ensure there are no charges, fees, clamping or fining of the cars of healthcare workers in cases in which they have to park on the street or otherwise do not have parking in hospital car parks; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which was referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

On 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 the CEO of the HSE directed that hospitals and healthcare facilities should immediately suspend parking charges for staff for the duration of the Covid-19 National Public Health Emergency. The CEO directed that this measure should remain in place for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. The CEO has not rescinded this direction and so it remains in place. It will be reviewed periodically.

The decision by the HSE concerned its own hospitals and healthcare facilities and those which are directly funded by the HSE under Section 38 of the Health Act 2004 (i.e. "Section 38 Organisations").

Although the HSE does not specifically possess the legal power to direct Section 38 Organisations in relation to car parking arrangements for staff, to its knowledge these organisations continue to permit health care workers to access on-site car parking facilities free of charge.

In relation to liaising with local authorities with regard to car parking for hospital staff, some health care facilities (i.e. hospitals, community settings etc.) have made informal arrangements with local authorities. However, the CEO's direction related to on-site car parking only.

There is no information available centrally in relation to discussions which may have been undertaken locally by hospitals with relevant local authorities.

I trust this is of assistance and clarifies the situation as it is presently.

Yours sincerely,

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Noel Taylor  
Office Manager  
Parliamentary Affairs Division