



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

18th November, 2020

Deputy Neale Richmond
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 33418/20* *To ask the Minister for Health if consideration has been given to waiving parking fees for frontline staff in hospitals in view of the level 5 restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Richmond,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The majority of hospitals in the Hospital Groups do not charge staff for car parking.

The CEO HSE sought free parking for healthcare staff during the COVID-19 first surge in recognition of the unique challenges facing them as frontline staff in responding to the pandemic. The CEO acknowledged supports offered by Dublin City Council during the same period which were availed of by healthcare staff. Given the limited number of parking spaces available in hospitals, this has been an important additional support to healthcare workers during the pandemic, particularly as we resumed our clinical activity to pre COVID levels.

In line with planning regulations, car parking spaces are very limited in hospitals and have been designed to meet the needs of patients in the first instance. Accordingly, they are not sufficient to meet the requirements of both patients and staff on a sustained basis.

Furthermore, a number of car parks are operated by private operators so it was necessary during the first surge to make specific concession arrangements, with the cost being borne by the HSE.

The CEO engaged with the hospitals in the Dublin area and most hospitals in Dublin City and County have sought to maintain concessions for staff parking. Where this is not possible, alternative arrangements have been put in place with city centre car parks at a reduced rate per day.

Since 2018, the HSE has been obliged by the Minister for Health to put specific arrangements in

place to ensure that cancer patients are facilitated with easy access to car parking and at reduced rates. Hospitals are also required to introduce flexible charging systems for families and friends of patients who are frequent visitors.

We will continue as far as possible to provide specific supports to healthcare staff in terms of access to hospital car parking. However, we will have to keep this under review given the space limitations and the imperative to meet the needs of our vulnerable patient groups.

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TD' with a horizontal line underneath.

Trina Doran
General Manager
Acute Operations