

Mr John Lahart TD
Fianna Fáil
Leinster House
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12th April 2021

Re. **PQ Number: 13211/21: *To ask the Minister for Health the details of the specific arrangements in place at public hospitals to ensure that cancer patients are facilitated with easy access to car parking at reduced rates as directed to the HSE by his Department in 2018, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

Dear Deputy Lahart

The management of parking at all hospital sites is an operational matter and as such is under the governance of the Acute Hospital Division of the HSE rather than the NCCP.

It is our understanding that paid parking is commonplace across most of the Acute Hospitals sites. Car parking charges were introduced as part of a series of measures to ensure that the cost of provision of such services was not taken from the hospital's operating budget. The income generated is now an important stream of funding to service provision. There is no national policy on parking charges and current rates reflect the cost of upkeep, maintenance and provision of the service. Most hospitals have a waiver system for families whose relatives are in hospital for a long time as there are multiples of patient/families with many chronic clinical conditions aside from cancer who make representations to the hospitals on an on-going basis.

I think it would be difficult to single out cancer patients for special consideration and that any policy should deal with clinical circumstances in general which necessitate frequent visits to or a lengthy stay in hospital. The work required to formulate any such policy would need to be managed at the highest level of the HSE and involve all of the necessary stakeholder groups. NCCP would be happy to participate with any such process.

NCCP work closely with the Irish Cancer Society and provide funding annually which supports two of their transport related schemes for patients during the diagnostic and treatment phases: [Travel 2 Care](#) and [Drive to Care](#) schemes.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme