



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.

**24 March 2021**

Deputy Paul Kehoe  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

***PQ 13511/21** To ask the Minister for Health if hospital parking fees should be applied for HSE employees when attending a hospital to receive the Covid-19 vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Public Representation, 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 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Health Service Executive (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 had been an important additional support to healthcare workers during the pandemic, particularly as clinical activity resumed 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 HSE will continue as far as possible to provide specific supports to healthcare staff in terms of access to hospital car parking. However, this will have to be kept under review given the space limitations and the imperative to meet the needs of vulnerable patient groups.

I trust that this is of assistance

Yours sincerely,

**Trina Doran**  
General Manager, Acute Operations