



1st February 2024

Deputy Duncan Smith
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

E: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 3889/24 To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that disabled parking at St. Vincent's Hospital has a four hour time limit for the length of time a person can occupy a disabled parking space; if he will liaise with St. Vincent's to remove this time limit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith

I refer to the above parliamentary question which was sent to me for direct response.

The hospital approaches the management of the disabled parking permit spaces in line with the entitlements of the Disabled Parking Permit Scheme. Across the campus there are over 26 bays providing parking at no cost to the permit holder. However there is a time restriction of four hours for these accessible spaces to ensure fair and equitable use. These free accessible spaces are concentrated along the main hospital road and are conveniently located to allow ease of access and egress for patients. To supplement the free of charge spaces the hospital also has an additional 25 bays spread across three public car parks, charged at the standard public rate. This is to ensure adequate availability of spaces for all users. The public car parks do have an hourly charge which is capped at €14 per day and again this arrangement is similar to the Disabled Parking Permit Scheme in terms of private car parks.

St. Vincent's University Hospital tries to accommodate all permit parking where possible and understands designated spaces are a basic necessity to maintain independence for people with limited mobility. More than 50% of the 50 plus disabled parking permit spaces are free of charge and the hospital also ensures strict parking management and enforcement arrangements are in place to maximise space usage and ensure no misuse by non-permit drivers.

I trust that this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely



Cahal Flynn,
Director of Operations.