

15 September 2020

Our Ref: RFI 35623

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Car Parking Income**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 26 August 2020.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Joyce Batch
Information Governance Assistant

Please see a follow up FOI request for more up to date statistics to what were recently provided to me.

Q1. In the last financial year (19/20), please breakdown per hospital In your health trust, how much income has been raised from hospital car parking?

A1 The income raised across the Trust Visitors Parking at each of the Hospitals is as follows;
 a) Ulster Hospital - £1,412,497.
 b) Ards Community Hospital - £144,713.
 c) Lagan Valley Hospital - £186,885.

Q2. From the figures in (Q1), how much of this income comes from health care staff parking?

A2 The total income from Staff Parking across the Trust for the last financial year amounts to £429,955.

Q3 Could you please advise if there are any patients in the hospital trust who are entitled to free car parking/discounted car parking?

A3 The exemptions for paid car parking in the Trust are provided in Table 1 below.

Table1

Care Path	Patient	Next of Kin/Partner	Relative	Visitor
Radiotherapy/ Chemotherapy	Yes	Yes, if transporting patient	Yes, if transporting patient	N/A
Renal Dialysis	Yes	Yes, if transporting patient	Yes, if transporting patient	N/A
Critical Care/ High Dependency	N/A	Yes	Discretionary	Discretionary
Relatives of long stay patients	N/A	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary
Cardiac rehabilitation patients	Yes	Yes, if transporting patient	Yes, if transporting patient	N/A

In addition, a ward manager has discretion to apply the eligibility criteria for exemption to car parking where the frequency of visits can lead to significant charging over a period of time e.g. relatives spending a lot of time with a very sick or terminally ill relative or patient who may benefit from lengthy or frequent visits from relatives which are of benefit to that patient.

Q4. What is the current policy for staff use of car parking? Do they have to pay for car parking across the Trust?

A4 Staff pay for parking at Trust sites where traffic management controls are present, currently Ulster Hospital, Ards Hospital and Lagan Valley Hospital.