



DEBATE PACK

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Hospital car parking charges

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Summary

This House of Commons Library debate pack briefing has been prepared in advance of the Backbench Business debate on a motion on hospital car parking charges. This will take place on Thursday 1st February 2018 in the House of Commons Chamber. When proposing this debate to the Backbench Business Committee on 16 January 2018, Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP [said the following](#):

Hospital car parking charges have become an ever-increasing issue for patients and visitors to hospitals and their relatives right across the United Kingdom. The Daily Mirror did a big campaign on this over Christmas, and it is something I have been arguing about for some time. It would cost roughly £200 million to scrap the charges. Many charities are supportive of the campaign to scrap hospital car parking charges, including CLIC Sargent, which is a child cancer charity, other charities and the RAC as well, which sent in its support...

We want to scrap hospital car parking charges for patients, visitors and, particularly, the staff, because it is very unjust that many staff who work in the public sector, such as police officers or teachers, don't pay for car parking, yet we penalise hard-working public sector workers who work in the NHS.

Trusts and foundation trusts in England are permitted to charge for car parking and to raise revenue from it as long as certain rules are followed: income generation activities must not interfere to a significant degree with the provision of NHS core services, they must be profitable, and this profit must be used to improve health services.

Different approaches have been taken in the other parts of the UK, however. In 2008, Scotland and Wales both introduced free parking at NHS hospitals, although some Scottish and Welsh hospitals still charge for parking due to external contractual agreements. In Northern Ireland, decisions on car parking charges are decided individually by Health and Social Care trusts, although there is also national eligibility criteria for free parking, such as for cancer and renal dialysis patients.

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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1. Hospital car parking policy

1.1 England

NHS trusts and foundation trusts are responsible for setting their own car parking policies for patients, visitors and staff, although patients who meet specified low income criteria, can in some cases claim expenses for car parking charges under the national [Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme](#).

Trust and foundation trusts are permitted to charge for car parking and to raise revenue from it as long as certain rules are followed: income generation activities must not interfere to a significant degree with the provision of NHS core services, they must be profitable, and this profit must be used to improve health services.¹

The Department of Health and Social Care's guidance on [Income Generation in the NHS](#) provides that income generation activities must be profitable and must not use NHS funding to subsidise their costs:

For a scheme to be classed as an Income Generation scheme, the following conditions need to be met:

- the scheme must be profitable and provide a level of income that exceeds total costs. If the scheme ran at a loss it would mean that commercial activities were being subsidised from NHS funds, thereby diverting funds away from NHS patient care. However, each case will need to be assessed individually. For example, if a scheme is making a substantial loss then it should be stopped immediately.²

The guidance also argued that where car parking schemes make a surplus, this is often invested in improvements to car parks. Providing car parking services will incur overheads, such as maintenance costs, funding for which would have to be sourced from elsewhere if no charges are imposed.³

The Government has estimated that the provision of free car parking at NHS hospitals would cost around £200 million per year.⁴

In 2014, the Department of Health published non-mandatory guidelines on [NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles](#), which were last updated in October 2015. These recommend the provision of concessions to groups that need them, such as disabled people, frequent outpatient attenders and visitors with gravely ill relatives:

Concessions, including free or reduced charges or caps, should be available for the following groups:

¹ Department of Health, [Income Generation: Car parking charges – Best practice for implementation](#), December 2006

² Department of Health, [Revised guidance on income generation in the NHS](#), February 2006

³ Department of Health, [Income Generation: Car parking charges – Best practice for implementation](#), December 2006, page 7

⁴ [PQ 66653 \[on Fees and Charges\], 14 March 2017](#)

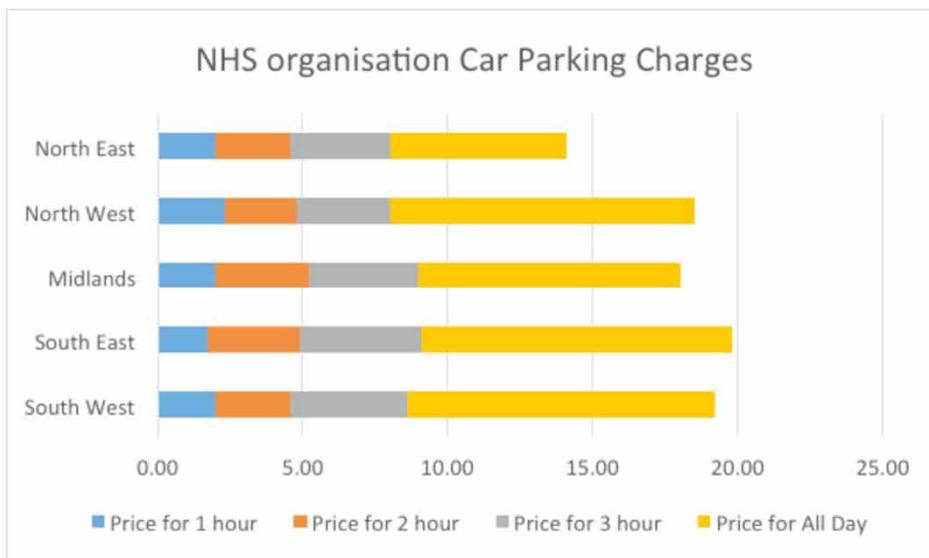
- people with disabilities (including people with temporary disabilities as well as Blue Badge holders)
- frequent outpatient attenders
- visitors with relatives who are gravely ill, or carers of such people
- visitors to relatives who have an extended stay in hospital, or carers of such people
- carers of people in the above groups where appropriate
- staff working shifts that mean public transport cannot be used

Other concessions, eg for volunteers or staff who car-share, should be considered locally.⁵

Results from the 2015 Patient-Led Assessments of the Care Environment collection showed that over 75% of sites that charge for car parking currently operate a concessions scheme and display it prominently.⁶

In response to a 2015 PQ, the Government provided details of 134 hospital sites in England that charge for car parking, but do not offer concessions, or that offer them but do not prominently display that information.⁷

To help NHS organisations deliver the *NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles*, in 2015 the Government published [NHS Car Parking Management: Environment and Sustainability](#). The guidance provides ground rules that are intended to help manage NHS car-parking provision and help to improve patient experience. It also provides a comparison of how parking charges vary across NHS sites in England⁸:



⁵ Department of Health & Social Care, [NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles](#), 29 October 2015

⁶ [PO 8440 \[on Hospitals: Parking\]](#), 14 September 2015

⁷ Full list can be found here: [PO 10846 \[on Hospitals: Parking\]](#), 14 October 2015

⁸ Department of Health, [Health Technical Memorandum 07-03, NHS car-parking management: environment and sustainability](#), December 2015, Appendix A

Hospital Parking Charges (Exemption for Carers) Bill 2015-16

On 24 June 2015, Julie Cooper presented the [Hospital Parking Charges \(Exemption for Carers\) Bill](#), having come fourth in the Private Members' Bill ballot, which would have placed a duty on health authorities to exempt carers from parking charges at English healthcare facilities.

The day before the Bill's second reading on 30 October 2015, the Department of Health and Social Care updated its guidelines on car parking concessions, to include specific references to carers. The then Care Minister Alistair Burt referred to these inclusions as the "Julie Cooper amendments":

Those changes are amendments, and as far as I am concerned, they are the "Julie Cooper amendments", because if the hon. Lady had not presented them to us, we would not have had them. Although I cannot support a change in the legislation, a material change will be made, and I hope that trusts and hospital authorities will take advantage of it when they feel that that is in their interests and also the right thing to do.⁹

The Bill itself did not go further than second reading. Opponents such as Sir Christopher Chope cited the difficulty of defining carers, and the potential parking charge increases for other groups:

If the money does not come from the taxpayer, would it come from increasing the charges of those who will continue to pay them? My hon. Friend the Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) made some really good points about that. According to the Government's guidance, they believe that concessions should be disbursed more widely than just to carers. The perverse and unintended consequence of the Bill—this would be inevitable, in my view—would be that higher charges would be borne by people who are worse-off. To take a topical example, a working family on tax credits may be a lot worse-off financially than a carer affected by this Bill, but they would have to pay higher charges to use the hospital car park. That is an example of the perversity of the Bill.¹⁰

More information can be found in the Commons Library briefing paper, [Background to Hospital Parking Charges \(Exemption for Carers\) Bill](#).

Hospital Car Parking Charges (Abolition) Bill 2017-19

One of the proposers of this debate, Robert Halfon, has been the primary sponsor of 21 Early Day Motions on hospital car parking charges (a full list of which can be found in section 2.4).

On 14 November 2017, Mr Halfon presented a Private Members' Bill under the Ten Minute Rule, the [Hospital Car Parking Charges \(Abolition\) Bill 2017-19](#), which was sponsored by Labour and Conservative MPs, including Julie Cooper. At the Bill's first reading, he described parking charges as a "stealth tax on the NHS":

Hospital car parking charges are a stealth tax on the NHS. We cannot say in good faith that the NHS is free at the point of

⁹ [HC Deb 30 October 2015, c679](#)

¹⁰ [HC Deb 30 October 2015, cc670-1](#)

access, paid for by general taxation, if people with cars face extortionate and unfair parking fees to get to their hospital appointments, to go to work at our vital public services or to visit sick relatives. It is wrong to tell one group of people that they have to pay and that everyone else can have something for free. The charges penalise the most vulnerable in our society at a time when they most need support.¹¹

The Bill was opposed by James Duddridge, primarily on the basis of cost to the NHS:

I am concerned about the funding stream. My right hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Robert Halfon) mentions £200 million—it is certainly more than the £162 million mentioned elsewhere—so that funding gap would need to be addressed. If we have £162 million or £200 million extra, we would be better spending it on hospital care rather than hospital parking.¹²

Second reading of the Bill is scheduled for 16 March 2018.

1.2 Scotland

In 2007, the then Health and Wellbeing Secretary Nicola Sturgeon announced a review of car parking charges in NHS hospitals in Scotland. Following the conclusion of the review, a decision was made to abolish parking charges from 31 December 2008.

Charges were removed from 14 hospitals where they had previously applied:

- NHS Grampian - Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde - Gartnavel General Hospital and Gartnavel Royal Hospital (one car park for both), Southern General Hospital, Stobhill Hospital, Victoria Infirmary, Western Infirmary and Yorkhill Hospital
- NHS Highland - Raigmore Hospital, Inverness
- NHS Lothian - Lauriston Building, St John's Hospital and Western General Hospital.
- NHS Tayside - Perth Royal Infirmary

However, charges remain at three hospitals built under private finance initiative (PFI) contracts, which the Scottish Government argued would be too expensive to buy out. The hospitals are: Glasgow Royal Infirmary, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.

The abolition of charges in most hospitals is not enshrined in statute.

In 2008 then Labour MSP Paul Martin presented the [NHS Parking \(Scotland\) Bill](#), in part to extend free parking to the three PFI hospitals, which would have enshrined the principle in law. The proposal however did not gather sufficient support and fell on 2 October 2009. In January

¹¹ [HC Deb 14 November 2017, c156](#)

¹² [HC Deb 14 November 2017, c156](#)

2018, Labour MSP Jenny Marra announced plans to introduce a Private Members' Bill to abolish car parking charges at Ninewells Hospital.¹³

According to a 2015 Scottish Government press release, the introduction of free parking has saved patients and staff over £25 million since its introduction.¹⁴

Concerns have been raised that since the introduction of free parking, NHS boards have not been able to provide adequate numbers of spaces. A 2013 investigation by the *Sunday Post* found that of surveyed patients, 77% thought hospital parking was inadequate, with 60% saying they had been forced to park outside hospital grounds.¹⁵

The Scottish Government has previously stated that it is the responsibility of NHS boards to effectively manage their hospital car parking spaces:

It is important that hospital car parks are managed to ensure they are not misused by commuters or shoppers.

Health boards all have car park management plans to ensure the needs of patients, visitors and staff are balanced. These include measures such as time limits, swipe cards or tokens for staff or staff-only areas.

We expect all NHS boards to have travel plans in place and to work with local authorities and transport providers to ensure that health services are supported by good public transport links.¹⁶

NHS boards must also comply with Scottish Government guidance and circulars on car parking and other good practice recommendations.

1.3 Wales

In March 2008, the then Health Minister Edwina Hart announced that parking in NHS hospitals should be made free as of 1 April 2008, except where external parking management contracts were in place, as these were thought to be too expensive to buy out. However, health boards with external contracts were expected to propose and fund schemes to reduce charges until contracts expire.¹⁷

This followed a commitment in the 2007 *One Wales* coalition agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru to "reform charges for hospital parking."

By 2011, only four hospital sites had external contracts in place. Current external contracts still in place are held by Barry Hospital, St David's Hospital and University Hospital Llandough sites, which have parking contracts with Parking Eye ending on 31 October 2018, and the

¹³ ['Bid to abolish 'tax on ill' Ninewells parking charges'](#), *Evening Telegraph*, 24 January 2018

¹⁴ ['Free parking saves patients over £25m'](#), *Scottish Government press release*, 11 October 2015

¹⁵ ['Hospital car parking hell'](#), *Sunday Post*, 8 September 2013

¹⁶ ['Does free hospital parking work?'](#), *BBC News*, 16 October 2009

¹⁷ ['Reform of hospital parking charges announced'](#), *NHS Wales press release*, 3 March 2008

University Hospital of Wales (UHW) Cardiff site which has a parking contract with Indigo ending in March 2018.¹⁸

In July 2017, 75 staff at UHW lost a court case against outstanding tickets, and were required to pay their debt to Indigo. In response, First Minister Carwyn Jones stated that:

It's unfortunate for those individuals—I understand that—but it is hugely important that there is proper enforcement on the UHW site in terms of safety, and to stop people parking there all day, in order to make sure that patients who arrive on site do have places to park. So, enforcement has to happen.¹⁹

In September 2008 *Wales Online* reported that shortly after the abolition of charges, a number of hospitals introduced measures to prevent people abusing free car parking, amid concerns that patients were struggling to park:

In North Wales, people parking more than two hours who cannot prove they had an appointment at Wrexham Maelor Hospital now face £70 fines.

And Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust is considering introducing a token system at Singleton Hospital, in Swansea, in a bid to prevent commuters, students and shoppers taking all the spaces. The trust has also arranged for an extra 120 spaces to be made available to ease parking congestion.²⁰

1.4 Northern Ireland

Decisions on car parking charges is decided individually by Health and Social Care trusts. Patients who meet certain low income criteria can have parking costs covered under the [Hospital travel costs scheme](#).

In June 2008, new guidance was published, [HSC Hospital Car Parking Provision and Management](#), to promote greater consistency between the five trusts. It set out a range of key principles including that:

- Parking policies must fit the particular needs of the facility
- Trusts must ensure a reasonable allocation of parking spaces to allow patients and carers to access appointments
- Regional eligibility criteria for free parking must be applied.

The eligibility criteria for free parking was set as follows:

Care Path	Application of Free Car Parking			
	Patient	Next of Kin/Partner	Relative	Visitor
Radiotherapy Chemotherapy	Yes	Yes if transporting patient	Yes if transporting patient	N/A
Renal dialysis	Yes	As above	As above	N/A
Critical Care/ High Dependency	N/A	Yes	Discretionary	Discretionary

¹⁸ Welsh Assembly Research Service, [e-Petition number: P-05-791](#), January 2018

¹⁹ National Assembly for Wales, [Questions to the First Minister](#), 18 July 2017

²⁰ ['Hospitals to stop abuse of free parking'](#), *Wales Online*, 8 September 2008

In 2008, in relation to general hospital parking charges, then Health Minister Michael McGimpsey stated that:

Charging is a means of discouraging inappropriate parking by commuters and protecting spaces for patients and hospital staff. The revenue is also a means of paying for the cost of running car parks. However, too many patients are still having difficulties in finding a parking space when they visit hospitals. This is unacceptable.²¹

As set out in evidence to a [2011 inquiry by the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety](#), charging was not widespread prior to the publication of the 2008 guidance, following which a number of additional hospitals have begun to charge for parking.²²

A June 2016 Assembly question confirmed that as of 2014/15, 10 hospitals charged for parking (three of which had not as of 2010/11), raising around £3.6 million that year. The hospitals are:

- Altnagelvin Hospital
- South West Acute Hospital
- Antrim Hospital
- Causeway Hospital
- Ulster Hospital
- Royal Victoria Hospital
- Belfast City Hospital
- Mater Hospital
- Craigavon Area Hospital
- Daisy Hill Hospital²³

A 2016 *Belfast Telegraph* article reported that charges have also subsequently been introduced at Ards Hospital, Lagan Valley Hospital and Downe Hospital.²⁴

An update to the 2008 guidance was published in 2012, [Policy for Car Parking Provision and Management in the Health & Social Care Sector](#). It argued that “the current financial position makes it important that services such as car parking generate sufficient funds to cover costs.”

It also recommended that trusts should consider:

- Implementing charging on new sites.
- Increasing charges on existing sites.
- Charging staff where they are not charged currently.²⁵

²¹ Northern Ireland Assembly, 2 December 2009

²² Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, [Car Parking Charges in the Health and Social Care Sector](#), 15 February 2012, p2

²³ Northern Ireland Assembly, [AOW 51252/11-16](#), 2 February 2016

²⁴ [‘Two more hospitals to charge for parking’](#), *Belfast Telegraph*, 2 March 2016

²⁵ Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, [Policy for Car Parking Provision and Management in the Health & Social Care Sector](#), June 2012, p24-5

2. Parliamentary material

2.1 Written Parliamentary Questions

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Halfon, Robert | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to his Department's guidance on NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles, last updated on 29 October 2015, whether he has had discussions with local authorities in the East of England on what constitutes a reasonable charge to park at a hospital in that region for (a) one hour, (b) four hours, (c) one day and (d) one week.

Answering member: Stephen Barclay | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

The Department does not discuss car parking charges with local organisations. The provision of parking spaces and the level of any charges that are made to use them are matters for individual National Health Service organisations.

Details of charges, concessions and additional charges should be well publicised including at car park entrances, wherever payment is made and inside the hospital. They should also be included on the hospital website and on patient letters and forms, where appropriate.

The Department published guidelines (the car parking principles) for NHS organisations that they are expected to follow.

24 Jan 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 122952

Date tabled: 16 Jan 2018 | **Date for answer:** 18 Jan 2018 | **Date answered:** 24 Jan 2018

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Halfon, Robert | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to his Department's guidance on NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles, last updated on 29 October 2015, how many hospital trusts in England have installed a pay on exit or similar scheme since the initial publication of that guidance on 23 August 2014.

Answering member: Stephen Barclay | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

This data is not collected centrally.

National Health Service organisations are responsible locally for their own policy on internal travel arrangements and car parking, taking into account operational circumstances and community interests.

The NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles (first published in August 2014 and then updated in October 2015), set out a nationally consistent approach to determining car parking policies, making clear

the rules which NHS trusts should follow when making decisions about car parking. However, the provision of parking spaces for patients, staff, contractors, and other visitors to the site and the level of any charges that are made to use them are matters for individual NHS trusts.

23 Jan 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 122546

Date tabled: 15 Jan 2018 | **Date for answer:** 17 Jan 2018 | **Date answered:** 23 Jan 2018

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Halfon, Robert | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many hospitals in England charge blue badge holders to park.

Answering member: Mr Philip Dunne | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

National Health Service car parking data is collected annually and published at:

<http://hefs.hscic.gov.uk/ERIC.asp>

The 2016-17 Estates Return Information Collection figures show that out of 1,043 hospital sites that have designated disabled parking, 132 have indicated that they charge for disabled parking (which includes disabled people, people with temporary disabilities as well as Blue Badge holders).

Decisions on car parking provision and charging are taken locally by each trust.

The Department published clear guidelines (the car parking principles) for NHS organisations that they are expected to follow. Hospitals should put concessions in place for those who most need help including disabled people, carers and staff who work shifts. The NHS itself is responsible for ensuring that charges are fairly applied. Patients, visitors and staff who have problems with car parking should therefore contact the NHS organisation that runs the car park.

08 Nov 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 111102

Date tabled: 02 Nov 2017 | **Date for answer:** 06 Nov 2017 | **Date answered:** 08 Nov 2017

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Field, Frank | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on how many and which NHS hospitals have failed to follow its guidance on charging staff, patients and visitors to park their vehicles in NHS car parks.

Answering member: Mr Philip Dunne | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

The information on how many and which National Health Service hospitals failed to follow its guidance on charging staff, patients and visitors is not collected.

NHS trusts make decisions locally about the provision of car parking to patients, visitors and staff. The Department published clear guidelines (car parking principles) for NHS organisations that they are expected to follow.

02 Nov 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 110292

Date tabled: 30 Oct 2017 | **Date for answer:** 02 Nov 2017 | **Date answered:** 02 Nov 2017

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Field, Frank | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what penalties are imposed on NHS hospitals which fail to follow his Department's guidance on charging staff, patients and visitors to park their vehicles in NHS car parks.

Answering member: Mr Philip Dunne | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

Penalties are not imposed on National Health Service trusts in relation to car parking charges and actions.

The NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles (first published in August 2014 and then updated in October 2015), set out a nationally consistent approach to determining car parking policies, making clear the rules which NHS trusts should follow when making decisions about car parking.

02 Nov 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 110284

Date tabled: 30 Oct 2017 | **Date for answer:** 02 Nov 2017 | **Date answered:** 02 Nov 2017

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Morris, Grahame | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make it his policy to exempt NHS staff from hospital car parking charges when they are at work.

Answering member: Mr Philip Dunne | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

National Health Service trusts make decisions locally about the provision of car parking to patients, visitors and staff. Providing car parking results in NHS trusts incurring costs for equipment, signage, lighting, insurance, security, administration and maintenance. Charges are used to cover these costs which would otherwise fall on the provider and would be likely to impact on its provision of clinical care.

The Department published clear guidelines (car parking principles) for NHS organisations that they are expected to follow. Hospitals should put concessions in place for those who most need help including disabled people, carers and staff who work shifts. The NHS itself is responsible for ensuring that charges are fairly applied. Patients, visitors and staff who have concerns around problems with car parking should therefore contact the NHS organisation which runs the car park.

08 Sep 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 7466

Date tabled: 04 Sep 2017 | **Date for answer:** 06 Sep 2017 | **Date answered:** 08 Sep 2017

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Brabin, Tracy | **Party:** Labour Party · Cooperative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent discussions he has had with NHS trusts on car parking costs in relation to blue badge holders.

Answering member: Mr Philip Dunne | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

Decisions on car parking provision and charging are taken locally by each trust.

The Department published clear guidelines (the car parking principles) for National Health Service organisations that they are expected to follow. Hospitals should put concessions in place for those who most need help including disabled people, carers and staff who work shifts. The NHS itself is responsible for ensuring that charges are fairly applied. Patients, visitors and staff who have problems with car parking should therefore contact the NHS organisation which runs the car park.

The Department published NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles on 23 August 2014, which were subsequently updated in October 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-patient-visitor-and-staff-car-parking-principles/nhs-patient-visitor-and-staff-car-parking-principles>

On concessions, the principles make clear that concessions, including free or reduced charges or caps, should be available for the following groups:

- disabled people, including people with temporary disabilities as well as Blue Badge holders;
- frequent outpatient attenders;
- visitors with relatives who are gravely ill, or carers of such people;
- visitors to relatives who have an extended stay in hospital, or carers of such people;
- carers of people in the above groups where appropriate; and

- staff working shifts that mean public transport cannot be used.

03 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 1747

Date tabled: 28 Jun 2017 | **Date for answer:** 03 Jul 2017 | **Date answered:** 03 Jul 2017

- [Hospitals: Fees and Charges](#)

Asked by: Davies, Philip | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Department has estimated the cost to the public purse of extending (a) free TV usage to patients in hospitals, (b) free hospital parking to all hospital users, including visitors and (c) free prescriptions to all.

Answering member: Mr Philip Dunne | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

As part of the introduction of bedside televisions and telephones into National Health Service hospitals in England, the Government specified that free access to a television should be made available to patients who, for whatever reason, did not want to pay for the use of the bedside TV and telephone system. For example, these TVs should be made available in day rooms. There has been no assessment on the cost of extending further free TV usage to patients in hospital.

Providing free car parking at NHS hospitals would result in some £200 million per year being taken from clinical care budgets to make up the shortfall. Decisions on hospital car parking are taken locally, in line with the NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-patient-visitor-and-staff-car-parking-principles>

Abolishing prescription charges in England would leave the NHS with a funding gap of over £520 million each year. This is equivalent to the average employment costs of some 12,000 nurses, or 3,500 hospital consultants.

14 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 66653

Date tabled: 06 Mar 2017 | **Date for answer:** 08 Mar 2017 | **Date answered:** 14 Mar 2017

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Benn, Hilary | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his policy is on parking charges for Blue Badge holders in hospital car parks.

Answering member: Mr Philip Dunne | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

The Department published National Health Service patient, visitor and staff car parking principles on 23 August 2014. These state that concessions, including free or reduced charges or caps, should be

available for disabled people, including people with temporary disabilities as well as Blue Badge holders.

08 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 66012

Date tabled: 28 Feb 2017 | **Date for answer:** 02 Mar 2017 | **Date answered:** 08 Mar 2017

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Madders, Justin | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of hospitals have a policy of charging (a) blue badge holders and (b) carers for parking.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

Data is not collected centrally in the exact format requested. Data on car parking is collected annually through two collections.

The Estates Return Information Collection asks whether organisations charge for the use of designated disabled parking spaces. Of the 1,038 sites that have designated disabled car parking spaces 87% do not charge.

The Patient Led Assessment of the Care Environment asks about the number of sites that offer car parking charge concessions in accordance with the National Health Service patient, visitor and staff car parking principles. Of the 372 sites that charge for car parking, 86% offer concessions, which include either free car parking or reduced charges or caps.

26 May 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 37814

Date tabled: 23 May 2016 | **Date for answer:** 26 May 2016 | **Date answered:** 26 May 2016

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Baroness Kennedy of Cradley | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 23 November (HL3659), why no national assessment has been made of the effect of hospital trusts charging disabled people to park their cars, and whether they have made any regional or local assessments about that issue.

Answering member: Lord Prior of Brampton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

NHS trusts have the power to charge for car parking under paragraph 20 of Schedule 4 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Foundation Trusts (FTs) have similar general powers under section 43(3) of the NHS Act 2006. Individual NHS organisations decide locally whether or not to institute charges and they also carry out any assessment of the impact of such charges.

As part of an assessment, trusts consider a range of factors, including the availability of parking spaces, the existence of alternative transport options and the cost of providing car parking. Such matters vary from place to place and therefore cannot be centrally assessed.

In addition, as public bodies, NHS organisations must ensure they are compliant with the public sector equality duty at Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The conduct of equality assessments is a local matter and the outcomes are not collected centrally.

03 Dec 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL3911

Date tabled: 25 Nov 2015 | **Date for answer:** 09 Dec 2015 | **Date answered:** 03 Dec 2015

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Baroness Kennedy of Cradley | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of hospital trusts charging disabled people to park their cars on those people.

Answering member: Lord Prior of Brampton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

The Department has not made any national assessment of the effect of parking charges on specific groups. Decisions on hospital car parking, including charging, are taken locally by National Health Service trusts and foundation trusts.

On 23 August, 2014, the Department published the *NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles*, which set out a nationally consistent approach for hospitals to take to car parking and concessionary charges. Disabled people are explicitly mentioned as a group who should receive free or concessionary parking. The principles are:

"NHS organisations should work with their patients and staff, local authorities and public transport providers to make sure that users can get to the site (and park if necessary) as safely, conveniently and economically as possible.¹

Charges should be reasonable for the area.

Concessions, including free or reduced charges or caps, should be available for the following groups:

- disabled people²
- frequent outpatient attenders
- visitors with relatives who are gravely ill, or carers³ of such people
- visitors to relatives who have an extended stay in hospital, or carers³ of such people
- carers³ of people in the above groups where appropriate
- staff working shifts that mean public transport cannot be used

Other concessions, eg for volunteers or staff who car-share, should be considered locally.

Priority for staff parking should be based on need, eg staff whose daily duties require them to travel by car.⁴

Trusts should consider installing 'pay on exit' or similar schemes so that drivers pay only for the time that they have used. Additional charges should only be imposed where reasonable⁵ and should be waived when overstaying is beyond the driver's control (eg when treatment takes longer than planned, or when staff are required to work beyond their scheduled shift).

Details of charges, concessions and additional charges should be well publicised including at car park entrances, wherever payment is made and inside the hospital. They should also be included on the hospital website and on patient letters and forms, where appropriate.

NHS trusts should publish:

- their parking policy
- their implementation of the NHS car parking principles
- financial information relating to their car parking
- summarised complaint information on car parking and actions taken in response

Contracted-out car parking

NHS organisations are responsible for the actions of private contractors who run car parks on their behalf.

NHS organisations should act against rogue contractors in line with the relevant codes of practice⁶ where applicable.

Contracts should not be let on any basis that incentivises additional charges, eg 'income from parking charge notices only'."

To help NHS organisations deliver the above principles the Department published *NHS Car Parking Management: Environment and Sustainability (HTM 07-03)* on 25 March 2015. This guidance is attached.

Both documents make it clear that National Health Service organisations should work with patients, staff, visitors, local authorities and public transport providers when planning their parking provision.

Notes:

- 1 Each site is different and very few will be able to provide spaces for everyone who needs one. Since 2010, national planning policy no longer imposes maximum parking standards on development, and no longer recommends the use of car parking charges as a demand management measure to discourage car use.
- 2 Consideration should be given to the needs of people with temporary disabilities as well as Blue Badge holders.

Carers are those as identified in the following:

(i) Care Act 2014 section 10(3)

(ii) Children and Families Act 2014 section 96

(iii) Children and Families Act 2014 section 97

(iv) Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995

- 3 Such staff might include nurses or therapists who visit patients at home. Routine travel between hospital sites might more sensibly be managed by providing internal transport.
- 4 'Reasonable' implementation of additional charges practice might include additional charges for people who do not have legitimate reasons for parking (eg commuters), or who persistently flout parking regulations (eg blocking entrances). A period of grace should normally be applied before a parking charge notice is issued.
- 5 There are two trade associations: the British Parking Association and the Independent Parking Committee. If the car park operator is a member of either, their relevant code applies and an appeals service is available to motorists. NHS organisations should consider imposing a requirement for contractors to be members of such an association.

23 Nov 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL3659

Date tabled: 17 Nov 2015 | **Date for answer:** 01 Dec 2015 | **Date answered:** 23 Nov 2015

Attachment: Car Parking management; Car Parking principles

2.2 Oral Parliamentary Questions

- [Hospital Car Parking Charges](#)

Asked by: Robert Halfon | **Party:** Conservative Party

The vast majority of national health service hospitals in Scotland do not charge for car parking. Will my right hon. Friend initiate discussions with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to explore the options for extending that to England?

Answered by: David Mundell | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Scotland

I am sure that my colleague the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care will have heard my right hon. Friend's comments.

24 Jan 2018 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 635 c254

Date answered: 24 Jan 2018

- [Hospital Car Parking Charges](#)

Asked by: Robert Halfon (Harlow) (Con) | **Party:** Conservative Party

Whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Government on its abolition of hospital car parking charges.

Answered by: The Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell) |
Party: Conservative Party | **Department:** Scotland

I have not had discussions with the Scottish Government regarding hospital car parking charges. The policy falls wholly within their area of devolved competence.

24 Jan 2018 | Oral questions - Lead | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 903409 | 635 c254

Date tabled: 16 Jan 2018 | **Date for answer:** 24 Jan 2018 | **Date answered:** 24 Jan 2018

- [Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Robert Halfon (Harlow) (Con) | **Party:** Conservative Party

Does my hon. Friend recognise that many hospitals around the country do not have good public transport links? For that reason, will he write to the Health Secretary urging him to scrap hospital car parking charges?

Answered by: Jesse Norman | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Transport

I apologise, Mr Speaker. My first ever debate in the House was on car parking charges at Hereford Hospital, so I absolutely understand and share my right hon. Friend's concern. I am afraid that this has been the legacy of the Labour Government's investment in private finance initiative projects in hospitals in the period up until 2010.

18 Jan 2018 | Topical questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 634 c1050

Date answered: 18 Jan 2018

- [Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Grahame Morris (Easington) (Lab) | **Party:** Labour Party

Will the Minister abolish the patient penalty and scrap hospital car parking charges, which punish both the sick and hard-working NHS staff, as well as causing problems for residents living adjacent to NHS hospitals, such as Peterlee Community Hospital in my constituency?

Answered by: Mr Hunt | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Health

I do understand the concerns raised, and all hospitals are under a responsibility to make sure that they have proper arrangements in place for people on low incomes and people who have to visit hospitals regularly.

10 Oct 2017 | Topical questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 629 c162

Date answered: 10 Oct 2017

- [Car Parking Costs](#)

Asked by: Paula Sherriff (Dewsbury) (Lab) | **Party:** Labour Party

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust has recent imposed charges for blue badge holders. Many constituents have told me that, as a result, they

will struggle to attend their appointments. The trust admitted to me that it had not considered the impact on the DNA—did not attend—rate. Does the Minister agree that not only does this place an extra financial burden on the vulnerable, but could lead to their being denied access to the healthcare that they desperately need?

Answered by: Ben Gummer | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Health

The hon. Lady raises the surprising point that the hospitals did not consider the impact on their operations, which they should have done. The principles make it quite clear that disabled drivers should get concessionary rates, although charges sometimes need to be applied so that there are spaces for disabled drivers. The hospitals should have thought that through, and should look for savings elsewhere in their operations before they look at car parking charges.

17 Nov 2015 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 602 c506

Date answered: 17 Nov 2015

- [Car Parking Costs](#)

Asked by: Ben Howlett (Bath) (Con) | **Party:** Conservative Party

Hospital car parking charges are clearly too high in the UK. I am sure that my hon. Friend agrees that the Minister without Portfolio, my right hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Robert Halfon), led an amazing campaign during the previous Parliament to reduce the charges. Will my hon. Friend confirm that he is pursuing his commitment to reduce hospital car parking charges and explain how that will help patients and visitors to the Royal United hospital in my constituency?

Answered by: Ben Gummer | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Health

The principles that the Department publishes are clear that charges, if they are set, should be proportionate and fair and should be set at a level that assures people of a car parking space. One of the problems of free car parking is that it often means there are no spaces for carers and for the sick when they turn up. Clearly, hospitals should exercise judgment in making sure that carers and people making frequent visits get a heavily discounted rate so that such charges do not become an impediment to free access to healthcare.

17 Nov 2015 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 602 c506

Date answered: 17 Nov 2015

- [Car Parking Costs](#)

Asked by: Jo Cox | **Party:** Labour Party

My local trust of Mid Yorks has just increased parking charges at Dewsbury and district hospital and has introduced charges for drivers with disabilities. The trust is clear that that is due to the financial settlement from Government. Does the Minister think it is acceptable

that people who are ill or in need of medical attention, and their loved ones, are being penalised in this way?

Answered by: Ben Gummer | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Health

The financial settlement from the Government is more generous than the one promised by the hon. Lady's party at the last election. We are committing £10 billion over the next few years. I would ask her trust to look at the savings suggested by Lord Carter, who has identified considerable savings that can be made within hospitals. If it feels that it needs to increase car parking charges, it should refer to the Department of Health guidance, which makes it clear that there should be concessions for blue badge holders.

17 Nov 2015 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 602 c506

Date answered: 17 Nov 2015

- [Hospitals: Parking](#)

Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the (a) affordability for and (b) effect on (i) patients and (ii) carers of hospital car parking; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department of Health

Decisions on hospital car parking, including charging, are taken locally by National Health Service foundation trusts and NHS trusts.

On 23 August, 2014, the Department published the *NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles*, which set out a nationally consistent approach for hospitals to take to car parking and concessionary charges. This was updated in October 2015 to make explicit reference to carers as a group who should receive concessions. The principles are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-patient-visitor-and-staff-car-parking-principles>

To help NHS organisations deliver the above principles the Department published *NHS Car Parking Management: Environment and Sustainability (HTM 07-03)* on 25 March 2015. This guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-car-parking-management-hm-07-03>

Both documents make it clear that NHS organisations should work with patients, staff, visitors, local authorities and public transport providers when planning their parking provision.

09 Nov 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 14726

Date tabled: 04 Nov 2015 | **Date for answer:** 09 Nov 2015 | **Date answered:** 09 Nov 2015

2.3 Parliamentary Debates

- [Hospital Car Parking Charges \(Abolition\)](#) (HC Deb 14 November cc154-156)
- [Hospital Car Parking Charges](#) (HC Deb 1 September 2014 cc67-85)
- [Hospital Car Parking Charges](#) (Hereford) (HC Deb 26 July 2010 cc837-844)

2.4 Early Day Motions

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES AND THE RAC](#)
25 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 862 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING AND CANCER PATIENTS](#)
23 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 850 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES AND FAIRFUELUK SURVEY SUPPORT](#)
22 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 832 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING AND CHILDREN WITH CANCER](#)
18 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 826 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES AND PREMATURE BABIES](#)
18 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 824 (session 2017-19)
- [BLUE BADGE HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES](#)
16 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 801 (session 2017-19)
- [STAFF HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES \(No. 2\)](#)
15 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 791 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES \(No. 3\)](#)
11 Jan 2018 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 783 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES \(No. 2\)](#)
13 Nov 2017 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 524 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND](#)
13 Nov 2017 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 522 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES IN LONDON](#)
13 Nov 2017 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 521 (session 2017-19)
- [STAFF HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES](#)
02 Nov 2017 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 497 (session 2017-19)
- [DISABLED HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES](#)
02 Nov 2017 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 496 (session 2017-19)
- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING CHARGES](#)

02 Nov 2017 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 495 (session 2017-19)

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING \(No.7\)](#)

02 Jul 2014 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 207 (session 2014-15)

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING \(No.6\)](#)

19 Jun 2014 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 150 (session 2014-15)

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING \(No.5\)](#)

19 Jun 2014 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 149 (session 2014-15)

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING \(No.4\)](#)

18 Jun 2014 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 140 (session 2014-15)

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING \(No.3\)](#)

18 Jun 2014 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 139 (session 2014-15)

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING \(No.2\)](#)

18 Jun 2014 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 138 (session 2014-15)

- [HOSPITAL CAR PARKING](#)

11 Jun 2014 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 72 (session 2014-15)

2.5 Petitions

- [Car parking charges at Congleton War Memorial hospital](#)

Car parking charges at Congleton War Memorial hospital

The petition of residents of the UK,

Declares that the introduction of car parking charges at Congleton War Memorial Hospital by East Cheshire Hospital Trust should be reversed; further that it is a misuse of the Trust's power; further that the enforcement of the charges has been handed to a private company, who has the sole aim of profiting from people who need to use the hospital's facilities; further that charges have resulted in severe distress to unwary patients and their visitors; further that the shock of receiving penalty notices of £70 is potentially harmful to the health of the people receiving them and whose health is entrusted to East Cheshire Hospital Trust; further than Congleton War Memorial Hospital was built from the subscriptions of the people of Congleton, as a memorial to the people who had fought and died to preserve freedom, and was meant for the benefit of those people and others; and further that local petitions on this matter were signed by 583 individuals.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to put pressure of East Cheshire Hospital Trust to remove car parking charges at Congleton War Memorial Hospital.

And the petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Fiona Bruce Official Report, 8 December 2015; Vol. 603, c. 964.]

[P001596]

Observations from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ben Gummer):

East Cheshire NHS Trust advises that its plans for camera-based parking management systems at Congleton War Memorial are currently paused. The Trust has guaranteed to make the first four hours of visitor parking free at Congleton War Memorial hospital, should it decide to install such a system. Therefore, it is unlikely that many patients would have to pay parking charges. The aim of such a system would be to protect the availability of spaces for genuine patients and visitors—as has been done with a similar system at Macclesfield Hospital.

The provision of car parking spaces and the charges that are made to use them are matters for individual NHS trusts, taking account of their local circumstances. NHS Trusts have the power to charge for car parking as provided by paragraph 20 of Schedule 4 to the NHS Act 2006.

Income generated from parking charges is used to pay the costs of providing the parking e.g. maintenance, security and lighting, and to avoid funds being taken from budgets for healthcare services. If any excess income is generated, income generation rules require that it is used to fund clinical services.

The Department of Health published the NHS Patient, Visitor and Staff Car Parking Principles in August 2014. They recognise that NHS organisations must have autonomy to make decisions that best suit their local requirements and are therefore not mandatory. However, they offer clear direction and leadership. They are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-patient-visitor-and-staff-car-parking-principles/nhs-patient-visitor-and-staff-car-parking-principles>.

The principles state that ‘NHS organisations should work with their patients and staff, local authorities and public transport providers to make sure that users can get to the site (and park if necessary) as safely, conveniently and economically as possible’. They help the public hold the NHS to account for any unfair charges or practices. They identify groups that should be considered for free or concessionary parking and require that details of charges, concessions and additional charges should be well publicised. This includes publicising charges at car park entrances, wherever payment is made and inside the hospital. They should also be included on the hospital website and on patient letters and forms, where appropriate.

Some NHS organisations outsource their car parking to commercial companies. This can be a sensible decision as it takes the burden and risk from the NHS. Commercial companies can use their expertise to provide better facilities, leaving the NHS organisation to focus on patient care. However the NHS is responsible for all the actions of its private contractors who run services for them and car parking is no exception. The DH principles are clear on this and help patients hold their local Trusts to account. They also state that ‘contracts should not

be let on any basis that incentivises additional charges, e.g. 'income from parking charge notices only'.

It has been estimated that the cost of providing free car parking across the NHS in England could be nearly a quarter of a billion pounds every year.

[P001596]

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The principles state that 'NHS organisations should work with their patients and staff, local authorities and public transport providers to make sure that users can get to the site (and park if necessary) as safely, conveniently and economically as possible'. They help the public hold the NHS to account for any unfair charges or practices. They identify groups that should be considered for free or concessionary parking and require that details of charges, concessions and additional charges should be well publicised. This includes publicising charges at car park entrances, wherever payment is made and inside the hospital. They should also be included on the hospital website and on patient letters and forms, where appropriate.

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It has been estimated that the cost of providing free car parking across the NHS in England could be nearly a quarter of a billion pounds every year.

11 Jan 2016 | Petitions | House of Commons | 604 c8P

Lead member: Bruce, Fiona | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Answering member:** Gummer, Ben | **Party:** Conservative Party

Department: Department of Health

- [Scunthorpe Hospital Car Parking Charges](#)

Scunthorpe Hospital Car Parking Charges

The Petition of residents of Scunthorpe,

Declares that the Petitioners are very concerned that car parking prices at Scunthorpe General Hospital have been increased from September 2013.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the hospital to think of local constituents who are affected by this price increase and reconsider their decision.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Nic Dakin, Official Report, 21 January 2014; Vol. 574, c. 268.]

[P001315]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

National Health Service organisations have the autonomy to make decisions locally on the provision of car parking to patients, visitors and staff to reflect local situations.

Patients whose healthcare needs require frequent or extended access to hospitals have a fundamental right to fair and appropriate car parking concessions and we expect hospital trusts to deliver them.

[P001315]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

National Health Service organisations have the autonomy to make decisions locally on the provision of car parking to patients, visitors and staff to reflect local situations.

Patients whose healthcare needs require frequent or extended access to hospitals have a fundamental right to fair and appropriate car parking concessions and we expect hospital trusts to deliver them.

11 Feb 2014 | Petitions | House of Commons | 575 c6P

Lead member: Dakin, Nic | **Party:** Labour Party

Department: Department of Health

3. Press articles and notices

[MP garners support for free hospital parking campaign](#)

ITV News, 30 January 2018

[Nearly HALF of hospitals have hiked car parking charges despite being urged to cut them](#)

The Mirror, 29 January 2018

[Scottish Labour pledges to scrap hospital parking charges](#)

The Times, 20 January 2018

- A report of Scottish Labour's commitment to introduce legislation to abolish car parking charges in hospitals with PFI contracts in Scotland.

[Why free hospital parking isn't as good as it sounds](#)

The Guardian, 2 January 2018

- A comment piece outlining the case against abolishing hospital car parking charges.

[NHS trust makes £1.6m a year in parking charges](#)

The Times, 2 January 2018

- A report on the revenue accrued by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust by charging for car parking.

[NHS hospitals made £174m from car park charges this year](#)

The Guardian, 28 December 2017

- A report detailing that 120 NHS trusts across England were asked to provide data on charges and fines in requests under the Freedom of Information Act, to which 111 responded. This estimated that a total figure of £174 million was accrued from charging patients, visitors, and staff to park in 2016/17.

[Scrap car park charges at our hospitals: Sign petition here and join campaign against 'tax' on the sick, their families and our NHS staff](#)

The Mirror, 28 December 2017

[Staff parking charges 'add insult to injury' after years of NHS pay restraint, claim unions](#)

Nursing Times, 21 December 2017

[Three Cheers for Hospital Car Parking Charges](#)

The Adam Smith Institute, 16 November 2017

[Robert Halfon: Hospital car parking charges must be scrapped](#)

Conservative Home, 8 November 2017

[Eighty-six hospitals hike visitor car parking charges as disabled drivers and low-paid staff lose free entry](#)

The Mirror, 7 October 2017

[Increase in car parking charges for hospital visitors](#)

ITV News, 2 October 2017

[NHS staff 'broken' after court orders them to pay thousands of pounds in hospital car park fines](#)

The Telegraph, 17 July 2017

[Reality Check: Will free hospital parking cost £162m?](#)

BBC News, 8 May 2017

- A 'Reality Check' examination of the claim that abolishing car parking charges at hospitals in England would cost £162 million.

[Labour will end hospital car parking charges in England, says Corbyn](#)

The Guardian, 8 May 2017

[Birmingham hospitals' overnight hike in parking charge angers users](#)

BBC News, 4 May 2017

[Hospitals in England ordered to provide free parking for some patients](#)

The Guardian, 23 August 2014

- Report on the publication of NHS guidelines, since updated in October 2015, on car park charging in hospitals.

[Macmillan Cancer Support responds to new NHS guidelines on hospital car parking](#)

Macmillan Cancer Support, 22 August 2014

- Macmillan Cancer Support's response to the publication of NHS England's car park charging guidance.

4. Further reading

- House of Commons Library briefing CBP-07227, [The prescription charge and other NHS charges](#), 15 March 2017
- Department of Health & Social Care, [NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles](#), 29 October 2015
- Macmillan Cancer Support, [Out of Order: The Hidden Cost of Hospital Car Parking](#), October 2013
- Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information NIAR 684-121, [Car parking charges in the health and social care sector](#), 28 November 2011

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