

Deputy First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for  
Health and Wellbeing  
Nicola Sturgeon MSP



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2 August 2010

Dear Wendy

Thank you for your letter of 8 July on behalf of your constituent, Mrs [redacted], about car parking arrangements at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

I am sorry that your constituent feels that NHS staff are being treated differently to other public sector staff. The introduction by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde of its car parking management policy at the Royal Alexandra Hospital is an extension of a policy which is already in place at a number of sites in the NHS Board. It is being introduced by the NHS Board because demand for parking exceeds the supply of parking spaces and to balance the parking needs of patients, visitors and staff.

As part of the policy, there will be a time restriction on the use of patient and visitor car parks during peak hours from Monday to Friday to ensure that patients and visitors are able to access those car parks. However, where patients or visitors have a valid reason to park for longer they will be able to do so.

The NHS Board has confirmed that patient and visitor car parks should not be used by staff during stipulated weekday hours. However, outwith those hours, and at weekends, staff may use the patient and visitor car parks. The four-hour limit in use in those car parks does not apply to the staff car parks. It is understood that the parking provision for staff amounts to around 40% of the total parking capacity at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

I can confirm that the criteria for staff parking permits is set out clearly on the NHS Boards website in the Car Parking Operational Procedures document, <http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s782>. The criteria for permits and the process for assessing applications has been agreed with the Staff Partnership.

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[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)



NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has a contract with CP Plus to provide car parking management services at the hospitals covered by the NHS Board's car parking policy. The contract sets out clearly the duties of the contractor in managing those car parks. As part of that, where a car is parked inappropriately, as defined by the NHS Board's car parking policy, an unauthorised parking notice will be issued and any necessary follow up action pursued as a civil matter. This includes breaching the time limit in operation in the patient and visitor car parks.

I hope that this explains NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's rationale for extending its car parking management policy to include the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

**NICOLA STURGEON**