

## **Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition PE2041: [Exempt community healthcare staff from parking charges](#), lodged by John Ronald.**

### **Brief overview of issues raised by the petition**

This petition is calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to encourage local authorities to exempt staff working at community healthcare facilities and who don't have access to free on-site staff parking from on-street parking charges and allow them to care for vulnerable and sick people in our country without it costing them thousands of pounds per year.

### **Background**

#### ***On street parking***

Local authorities can levy charges for parking in council owned or operated off-street car parks and on-street parking places under the provisions of Part IV of the [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984](#) ("the 1984 Act"). Prices for the use of local authority owned or managed off-street car parks are set by Order, made under Section 35(1) of the 1984 Act. Similarly, prices for parking in chargeable on-street parking spaces are also set by Order, made under the provisions of Section 46 of the 1984 Act.

The level of charges for both on-street parking places and local authority owned or managed off-street car parks are a matter for the local authority concerned.

Blue Badge holders are the only people exempt from paying for on-street parking. This exemption is set out in the [Local Authorities' Traffic Orders \(Exemptions for Disabled Persons\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2000](#).

#### ***Reimbursement for parking***

NHSScotland has issued [Guidance on Reimbursement of 'Out of Pocket' Expenses for Volunteers within NHS Scotland](#) this states:

“Volunteers should be encouraged to use public transport to and from their place of volunteering where possible, in accordance with guidance around the use of public transport which may be in place at the time. Reimbursement of the costs of travel tickets, car parking charges, toll charges, bus, underground, ferry or taxi fares (where prior approval for

use of a taxi has been given) should also be made. Appropriate receipts, used tickets or ticket stubs must be submitted with a claim.”

In relation to NHS staff being able to claim for parking this is covered in the policies of each Health Board. For example, [NHS Tayside’s Staff Travel & Accommodation Policy](#) states:

“The Board will reimburse all expenses for car parking costs incurred whilst travelling on Board business away from the employee’s normal place of work. Claims must be made using eExpenses and supported by receipts. Where no receipt is available, a note to that effect is required in eExpenses.”

## **Scottish Government action**

### ***Parking at NHS hospitals***

In September 2008, the Scottish Government announced that car park charges would be abolished at NHS hospitals in Scotland on 31 December 2008. In relation to staff parking [CEL 1 \(2008\) - Revised guidance on hospital car park charging](#) states:

“It is clear that there has to be a balance between the needs of patients, the public and staff in the use of the limited parking spaces at many hospital sites. Striking this balance is not always easy. While priority must go to safeguarding access for patients, Boards must ensure through staff partnership arrangements that the circumstances of staff who have specific transport needs are considered”.

In 2021, the [Scottish Government announced hospital parking charges are set to end permanently in Scotland](#) after agreements were reached to buy out two car parks in Glasgow and Dundee operated through PFI (private finance initiative) schemes. It also stated that negotiations were progressing to take over the last remaining PFI car park in Scotland at Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

## **Scottish Parliament action**

The Health Social Care and Sport Committee has [received correspondence from the Scottish Government in relation to hospital car park charges](#) and it has also been the subject of parliamentary questions such as S6W-02333.

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**SPICe Researchers**

31/08/2023

<p>The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public.</p>
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