

22 July 2024

Royal Victoria Hospital Staff Car Parking

Could I please request the following information under FOI, for the Royal Victoria Hospital site?

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2024, how many staff have been given car parking space for the first time?

Unfortunately, the infrastructure on the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) site does not provide us with accurate information to answer this question.

In 2020, in line with the Health Ministers announcement to provide free parking options for staff during the early months of the COVID pandemic, the Trust was able to provide 650 staff with onsite staff parking on the RVH site due to the downturn in activity. A further 1050 staff were offered offsite parking options. The 650 staff who availed of onsite parking were prioritised based on their shift patterns, on call commitments and commute distance. 280 of those 650 staff, deemed in most need of staff carparking access, using the criteria above, continue to avail of temporary staff parking. There are 100 of these staff still accessing an RVH carpark on a temporary basis.

If any car parking spaces have been given to staff between those dates, what criteria were used to make the decision to allocate spaces?

During these dates the RVH car parking waiting list was suspended in response to the COVID pandemic and has not reopened as the permit system which utilises criteria based allocation, was being rolled out, however this has been delayed. Any staff that have been allocated spaces within this timeframe will have been assessed based on their individual need, examples of which are as follows:

1. NIMTDA trainees required to be on RVH site covering 24 hour rotas.
2. Staff redeployed to RVH site from other Trust sites due to COVID
3. Staff redeployed to RVH site due to their department/service relocating from other Trust sites
4. Staff who had salary deducted paid parking on a Trust site who subsequently changed jobs and moved to the RVH site
5. Staff identified under a Director exemption, i.e. require parking due to patient safety need.
6. Staff provided with temporary parking access due to medical conditions, i.e. mobility issues/Long-Covid.
7. Staff who hold a Blue Badge.

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8. Staff whose role requires cross-site working who need occasional access due to business need.
9. Staff who provide emergency/Out of Hours cover: limited available parking for out of hours only.