

The Health Minister Extends Free Parking for HSE Staff

The Health Minister has made the following announcement in relation to free parking for HSE staff:

“I have asked Trusts to proceed with putting in place arrangements to extend free parking for staff for another four months. I am aware that with the hope of further recovery from the pandemic and associated rebuilding of the HSC, it is anticipated that many more parking spaces will be required for patients and visitors.

This will mean that it will not be possible to provide onsite free car parking for staff to the same levels as in the first two periods, and my officials are working with Trusts and others on a range of potential offsite solutions. Trusts will be keeping staff informed at a local level.”

The arrangement for staff in Belfast Trust is as follows:

Staff who pay for parking as a salary deduction

All staff who previously paid for parking through a salary deduction will continue to use their passes to park at no charge to them until 1 August 2021.

Other staff at BCH & MIH

Staff who have been issued with temporary car parking passes on the BCH & MIH sites will have their access automatically extended to the 31st July 2021. This is possible because the parking capacity on those sites (including the Crumlin Rd Gaol car park) can meet all demand; and because the technology supports the extension of the passes.

Other Staff on the RGH site

Free Passes

The technology of the passes on the RGH site does not permit the extension of any temporary passes that were issued and these passes will expire at midnight on 31st March 2021. Staff should call to the RVH Carparking Offices to get a temporary pass to allow access/egress in the Visitors' carpark for a limited period. Staff receiving this pass, and any other staff who require on-site parking must apply for a new temporary pass using the attached form, which requires manager verification. The application process is necessary because demand for free parking on the RGH site exceeds the available parking capacity and it is important that the limited parking that is available, is allocated to those staff who work shifts that are not supported by the new park & ride services or by public transport.

Park & Ride

The Park & Ride Services from the Blacks Road and the Springfield Road will continue to operate from 7am to 7pm and details of the timetable are available on the [Travel to Work page on the Hub](#). The Trust is seeking to extend the use of the Park & Ride facility at Blacks Road to 9pm to accommodate more staff. Information will be shared about this when the Department for Infrastructure confirm that is possible.

To facilitate staff working at night and weekends when the park & ride service is not in operation, parking enforcement measures have been suspended in the set down areas and permit parking zones between 6pm and 8am Monday to Friday and over 24 hours at the weekend.

Public Transport

Public transport remains free on presentation of an HSC pass so staff who live near the Glider route or the bus services on the Grosvenor or Falls Roads, should consider using those Translink services as they will be more direct than the off-site parking options.

Reclaiming through HRPTS

Because of the need to protect some capacity in the public car parks for patients, visitors and those attending the vaccine centre, the previous arrangement which allowed staff to reclaim the cost of parking in the public car parks, is no longer permitted except for staff who have had to work a shift that is not supported by the park & ride services.

All of these arrangements to meet the Health Minister's announcement of free parking, will be kept under review to ensure that, as the Trust begins to rebuild services, the impact on patients, visitors and staff is kept to a minimum.