

Edwina Leonard

From: Anne_McGuire@health.gov.ie on behalf of Minister's_Office@health.gov.ie
Sent: Wednesday 23 January 2019 10:44
To: Edwina Leonard
Subject: Correspondence Ministers Office

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23rd January 2019

Ms Edwina Leonard
Staff Officer - South Dublin County Council eleonard@SDUBLINCOCO.ie

Dear Ms. Leonard

Thank you for your recent email concerning car park charges and Tallaght University Hospital.

I am cognisant of the burden charge parking charges can have on patients and their families, and of the need for hospitals to take account of this.

At present some hospitals have introduced a maximum daily fixed parking charge, thus capping this expense. I understand that some hospitals also provide reduced rate parking for long-term patients and visitors for whom the payment of the full rate would cause hardship.

In March 2018, I requested the HSE to carry out a review of hospital car parking charges, with the aim of establishing clear national guidelines in this area. Following this, the HSE established a review group which first met in April 2018. The review involved a wide range of stakeholders and took account of the views of patient advocacy groups, the income generated by charges and the impact of any reduction in car parking income on hospital services.

On 27 June 2018, the HSE held a public consultation forum with key stakeholders invited, including patient advocacy groups.

I understand that the HSE is considering the draft recommendations of the review in the context of the development of its National Service Plan for 2019 and will submit the final report shortly. My Department will then liaise with the HSE on the next steps to be undertaken.

Yours sincerely

Simon Harris T.D.

Minister for Health

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