

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAR PARKING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to car parking permits at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

Question:

Please can you supply a copy of the site Traffic Management Group policy that was valid for applications received from 1st January 2026 that states third party (ie not NHS Lothian) employees permanently based at the RIE are ineligible to apply for a parking permit. I cannot find this on the Lothian Intranet site. I would also like to be sent evidence that this was discussed and agreed in partnership with Unite, Unison and the RCN unions.

Answer:

There is no specific Traffic Management Group policy. The Traffic Management Groups follow the NHS Lothian Parking Policy. A formal updated policy document is currently in the final stages of the policy approval process and aims to provide clarity over which staff members can apply for individual parking permits. Once this is finalised, this policy will be available on the staff Intranet.

The policy that only NHS Lothian staff can apply for car parking permits has been in place for a considerable period of time. The process was relaxed during the COVID pandemic in recognition of the extraordinary circumstances at that time. There are some cases of staff having retained permits from this time, but the agreement is that the original policy should now be back in place, and these cases are being addressed.

Representatives from both Unison and Unite sit on the site Traffic Management Groups and are have been fully involved in the policy review. NHS Lothian's Employee Director, who is head of Partnership representatives in NHS Lothian, also sits on the overall Pan Lothian Traffic Management Group.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply

within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive