

BMA House
Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9JP

E publicaffairs@bma.org.uk

Edward Argar MP
Minister of State
Department for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

09 July 2020

Dear Edward,

Re. importance of free parking for NHS staff

I am writing following your response to written parliamentary questions on car parking charges for NHS staff. The provision of free parking at hospital sites was a welcome provision when it was introduced in March and staff were grateful for it.

The cost of parking has been a continual issue for doctors and NHS staff over many years. The British Medical Association have called for hospitals to be funded so that healthcare workers are not financially penalised with expensive charges as they provide essential services to patients. Indeed, as you will be aware in Wales and Scotland parking for NHS staff is free. The provision of free parking during the Covid-19 pandemic was, therefore, well received by doctors as a small recognition of the lengths that they continue to go to and risks which they are taking to care for patients during the pandemic.

However, I was concerned that your answers to questions indicated that this provision may not continue. After the sacrifices doctors have made during the Covid-19 pandemic, if this gesture of good will is withdrawn it will deal a severe blow to the morale of NHS staff and doctors. Maintaining free parking would be a small token to show the Government's appreciation for the dedication and tireless efforts of NHS staff and doctors.

I understand that free parking for NHS staff has only been made possible by support from local authorities and independent providers. However, I am calling on the Government to do it all it can to maintain the current provision of free parking for NHS staff in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE
BMA Council Chair

Chief executive officer: Tom Grinyer

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