

## **National Assembly for Wales**

**Principal Petitioner: Ron Page. 54 King George V Drive,  
Cardiff CF14 4EF Tel. 02920651184**

**Number of Petitioners: 500+**

### **RESOLVE PARKING CRISIS IN HEATH/BIRCHGROVE AREA OF CARDIFF**

We the below undersigned residents of the above area call upon the Welsh Assembly Government as a matter of urgency to work with Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust and the Local Authority to seek ways to solve the parking crisis in our streets which prevents the peaceful enjoyment of our homes which we believe has been brought about by insufficient attention being given to the traffic impact of developments in the area. The Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust has crammed more and more services on to the relatively small site of Heath Hospital without sufficient regard for the traffic implications and its effect on residents while embracing a policy of selling hospital land for housing in other parts of Cardiff. At the same time Cardiff County Council has given planning approval to intensive development in the area without a thorough assessment of its impact on parking. For example the planning application for student flats in Clodien Avenue promised that occupants would sign an agreement not to park a car within one and half kilometres of the property. Unfortunately when the application was approved a scheme was not put in place to police the agreement.

Staff and visitors to the hospital jam our streets with their cars which causes air pollution, increasing traffic accidents because of reduced visibility and considerable frustration as residents are unable to park outside their own homes and quite often unable to exit their properties because of parked cars.

**Edwina Hart AM MBE**

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/01291/08

Your ref:

John Jones

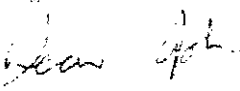
lmvj@hotmail.co.uk

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA  
English Enquiry Line: 0845 010 3300  
Fax: 029 2089 8131  
E-Mail Correspondence [Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd CF99 1NA  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg: 0845 010 4400  
Ffacs: 029 2089 8131  
E-Bost Correspondence: [Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

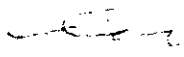
31 March 2008

  
Thank you for your email of 2 March in which you wrote about my reform of parking charges in NHS hospitals, and in particular the situation at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

As you know, from 1 April 2008, car parking on all NHS Trust sites is to be provided free of charge for patients, staff and visitors, unless external contracts are in place. For car parks where there are commercial contracts in place and Trusts are legally bound to honour the terms of these contracts, I am requiring NHS Trusts to introduce from 1 June 2008 schemes to reduce costs for patients, staff and visitors. These schemes will remain in place until the end of the Trust's contractual commitments.

I recognise your concerns about problems this may bring to hospital parking facilities, and I have therefore asked all NHS Trusts, including Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, to produce action plans to show how they will deal with potential increases in demand, including problems with on-site and off-site parking. I expect to receive these action plans by 1 May and I will be examining each one closely to ensure they properly address issues such as those you raise.

These reforms will make car parking policy fairer across Wales. Over time all NHS patients, their visitors and those who care for them will not have the expense or inconvenience of car parking charges. By the end of the current Assembly Term, the vast majority of NHS sites will have free car parking for all.



Dear Ms. Hart

Thank you for your reply dated 31st March, 2008. Unfortunately it does not address the point I was making. You have addressed your reply looking at what may happen in the future. What I am concerned about is the present.

The roads in the Heath area are already congested with parked vehicles that are used by the staff who work at the hospital. It is not a case of this might happen more that it has happened and been a problem for a number of years. **The fact that parking will or will not be free in the hospital is not going to create any more spaces.**

At a meeting I attended at the hospital a representative of Vinci( the private contractor looking after parking) stated that the hospital management had just buried its head in the sand concerning the problems.

I do not just blame the hospital management in this matter. The responsibility for the hospital lies at the door of the Assembly who have not done anything to alleviate the problems for staff, visitors and the residents in the surrounding area who have to live with the inconvenience and danger 5 days a week.

If you are not aware of these facts I am quite suprised but I will be quite interested to know what you and the management of the hospital suggest. Should they suggest building more multi storey car parks obviously the question of money will arise. At the Senedd quite recently (on my only visit) I heard Andrew DAVIES (Finance Minister) trying to explain why 200 million pounds has been sent back to the treasury stating that the money was still available for Wales. Could this money be used?

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely

John JONES

PS Could 4 million of the money sent back to the treasury go to the children's hospital immediately so that the necessary equipment etc. can be purchased instead of having to wait for the money to be realised by means of fundraising?



**WELSH BUS**  
**BWS CAERDYDD**

Gwasanaethau Trafnidiaeth Dinas Caerdydd Cyf,  
Swyddfeydd a Gorsaf Lecwydd, Ffordd Sloper, Caerdydd CF11 8TB

Your ref/Eich Cyfeirnod: PH/PH

Telephone/Rhif Ffôn: (029) 2078 7700

Our ref/Ein Cyfeirnod:

Direct Line/Llinell Uniongyrchol: 029 2078 7710

Date/Dyddiad: 14 April 2008

Fax/Ffacs:

E-mail/E-bost: [headoffice@cardiffbus.com](mailto:headoffice@cardiffbus.com)

Mr J Jones  
32 Heath Park Avenue  
Heath  
Cardiff  
CF14 3RH

Dear Mr Jones

I refer to our discussions about Heath Park Avenue

I confirm that Heath Park Avenue is used by Cardiff Bus services 85 and 85A between Cardiff City Centre and Lisvane.

It suffers from a high level of on street parking which has two effects on bus operation. The first is the difficulty in accessing bus stops. Frequently buses cannot access the kerb with the result that they have to stop in the centre of the carriageway. This negates the benefit to passengers of the low floor access and egress these buses have.

The second problem is the delays to services caused by the presence of such a high level of parked vehicles.

The problem of parked vehicles is bound to increase with the abolition of hospital parking charges, so we would welcome any improvements than can take place about this matter.

If you require further clarification, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

PETER HEATH  
COMMERCIAL MANAGER



NHS  
WALES  
GIG  
CYMRU

Caerdydd a'r Fro

University Hospital of Wales  
Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru

Cardigan House,  
Heath Park,  
Cardiff, CF14 4XW  
Phone 029 2074 7747  
Fax 029 2074 2968  
Minicom 029 2074 3632

Tŷ Aberteifi  
Parc Y Mynydd Bychan,  
Caerdydd, CF14 4XW  
Ffôn 029 2074 7747  
Ffacs 029 2074 2968  
Minicom 029 2074 3632

18 November 2005

**Private and Confidential**

Mr J R Jones  
32 Heath Park Avenue  
Heath  
Cardiff

Dear Mr Jones

Further to your letter dated 3 November 2005, I am writing in response to the concerns you have raised with regard to the parking of cars in the vicinity of the hospital. My staff have investigated the issues and I am now able to respond to your points as listed.

Q1 *Why is it necessary that staff engaged in the care of patients should pay to park at their place of employment?*

A1 Parking charges were introduced on 1 January 1995 to commence recovery of the large-scale investment in these new parking facilities. The charging mechanism was calculated at a rate consistent with the time scale of the contract agreement to raise a return on the capital investment that built the new car parks on the site. Charges have increased since their inception and under the terms of the contract the car park operator can only increase charges on an annual basis and in line with inflation.

Historically, the car park contract has been operated by Vinci Park (Cardiff) Ltd. (previously Apcoa UK Ltd.) and was negotiated with the Trust to provide the most beneficial rates and type of parking for patients, visitors and staff at the hospital.

Q2 *Number of people employed in a clinical capacity?*

A2 3580 (medical / nursing staff) – for UHW site

Q3 *Number of people employed in an administrative capacity?*

A3 1520 administrative staff – for UHW site

*Please note that there are an additional 2100 staff working on the UHW site to include therapeutic, scientists, laboratory and ancillary staff*

- Q4 *Cardiff University uses certain premises on the site. Number of people employed by University using site. Please can you give a date when this started and how the numbers increased over time?*
- A4 *Approx 1,960 Cardiff University permits issued*
- Q5 *Number of parking spaces within the hospital. Of those how many are for disabled drivers?*
- A5 *Total spaces 2849 – Disabled spaces 144*
- Q6 *The total number of parking permits in existence?*
- A6 *10,165 (since commencement including 'out of date / unused' permits for both Trust and University staff which have not been removed from the database). For your information a permit issue exercise to include amendments to criteria and a live database will be undertaken in partnership with the Trust's stakeholders during the calendar year 2006.*
- Q7 *Are there designated spaces for staff to park? If so how many spaces are available?*
- A7 *1,687 staff spaces*
- Q8 *Please identify number of spaces that cannot be used by staff?*
- A8 *1,193 – calculated in this are visitors spaces, drop zones, ambulance bays, taxi ranks, and disabled parking*
- Q9 *How do you monitor use of permits and how often are records updated?*
- A9 *Each individual is entitled to apply for a permit which is then scored against agreed criteria, some permit applications are refused (since Jan 2003 - 393 applications have been refused). New permit issue for CP9 (MSCP) and residential parking was completed in June / July 2005.*
- Q10 *Monday 31 October – cars parked over an area of approx. 100 yards, 11 vehicles exhibiting hospital permits. At the time of checking there were in excess of 200 spaces not occupied.*
- A10 *It is considered that the available spaces referred to were for visitors only.*
- Q11 *I am given to understand that Vinci have commenced management of the car park in Heath Park.*
- A11 *Heath Park is an agreement between Vinci and Cardiff City Council and therefore the Trust is unable to provide any information regarding the use of the area or the contract between the two parties.*

Q12 *Please identify any on going or future initiatives that would help to alleviate the problem to residents in the area*

A12 There are no immediate plans at this time to increase the number of parking spaces at the UHW site, although options are being considered re: available locations for creating additional spaces. The situation is also carefully monitored on a regular basis at the Trust and Residents Committee Liaison meeting.

I trust the above addresses the concerns you have raised. The Trust aims to learn from comments and complaints but if you feel that any point has not been properly addressed or would like to meet with the manager concerned, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Williams, Head of Operational Services, on Cardiff 029 2074 2301. Alternatively, if you remain dissatisfied with this response, please write to me within four weeks outlining your outstanding concerns.

Yours sincerely



**HUGH ROSS**  
**Chief Executive**