

# Consultation on permanent increase in car parking charges at the Antrim Area and Causeway Hospitals

## Consultation Document

30 March 2018 to 22 June 2018

<b>Content</b>	<b>Page</b>
About the Trust	3
Introduction	4
Why are we proposing to increase charges permanently	5
Background to car parking charges on acute sites	5
Equality duties	7
Consultation arrangements	9
Appendix 1 - Frequently Asked Questions	11
Appendix 2 - Consultation Questionnaire	14

### **Alternative formats**

This document can be provided in other formats including braille, large print, computer disk, audio tape or in another language for anyone not fluent in English.

### **Equality Unit**

Route Complex

8e Coleraine Road

Ballymoney, BT53 6BP

Tel: 028 2766 1377

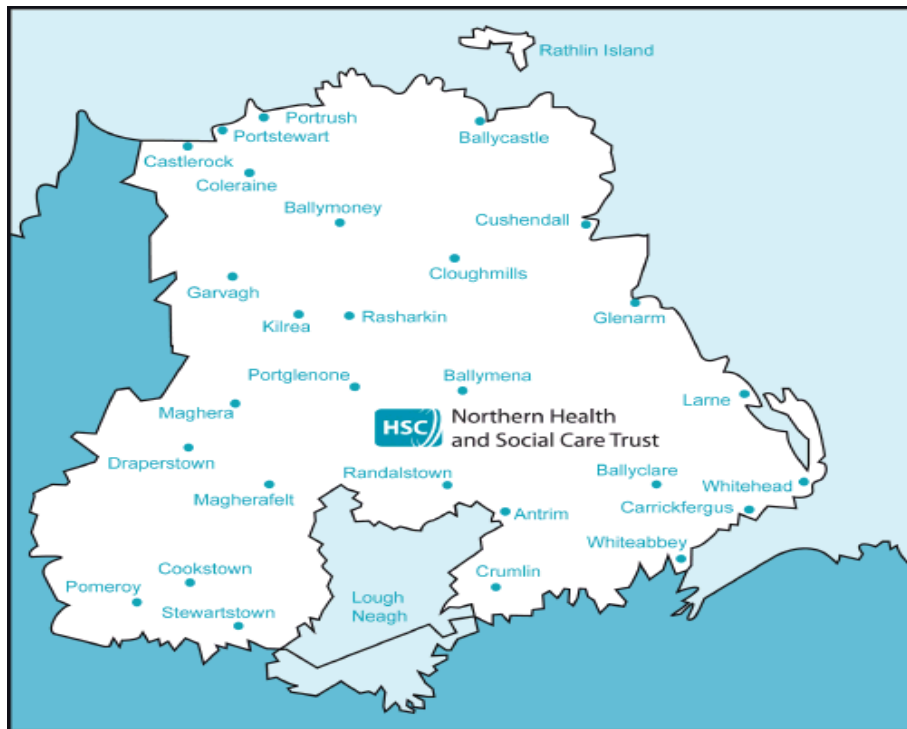
Fax: 028 2766 1209

Text mobile: 07825667154

E-mail: [equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net)

## About the Trust

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust provides a wide range of acute hospital, community care, social services and services in people's own homes across the whole of the Trust area, which has a population of approximately 465,000. The map below shows the geographical area covered.



In providing health and social care services, our staff work closely with others including local GPs and other agencies and providers, delivering services in people's own homes and in other community settings. The Trust purchases some services from other independent providers, primarily nursing and residential homes, also from independent domiciliary care providers and a range of non-residential services such as day care and counselling, working with the community and voluntary sector.

The Trust is funded through an annual financial programme with allocations made by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) from funding made available to the Department of Health (DoH) by Government. Health and Social Care Trusts are legally obliged to 'break-even' each year, which means delivering services within the funding allocated and not spending more than this.

## Introduction

During 2017 the Health and Social Care (HSC) system worked collaboratively to address the significant financial pressures facing health and social care services in 2017/18 to meet the statutory requirement of achieving a balanced financial plan. The Northern Trust was tasked by the Department of Health with developing draft savings plans to deliver its share of the savings. As part of the process during August 2017, the Trust publicly consulted on a range of 'temporary' proposals required to support the delivery of a balanced financial position at the end of the financial year. The consultation period ran from 24 August 2017 to 5 October 2017 and included the temporary proposal to 'Increase car park charges at acute hospital sites'.

All feedback received in relation to this temporary proposal was considered as part of the Trust Board decision making process and the proposal was subsequently approved by Trust Board on 13th October 2017. This plan received further endorsement from the regional Health and Social Care Board and also from the Department of Health.

The approvals currently in place are temporary in nature and as the financial climate has not altered, the Trust proposes to maintain the current increased car park charges at its two acute hospital sites on a permanent basis. The Trust committed to further public consultation if it was considered necessary for specific proposals to be made permanent and so we are taking forward this consultation. The proposal to increase car parking charges came about as part of the regional financial challenge last autumn and was endorsed by the Department of Health to make a modest contribution to the financial challenge of breaking even. The Department of Health has issued its financial projection for the next two years and the financial climate remains as challenging as ever. As such we will continue with our temporary increase of car park charges at the same time as consulting on increasing the charges on a permanent basis. In compliance with the Department of Health 2014 circular "Change or Withdrawal of Services – Guidance on Roles and Responsibilities", given the timescales it has not been possible to consult on the permanent increase in car

parking charges and therefore this consultation will run alongside a continued temporary increase in charges. It is proposed that the permanent increase in car parking charges will be implemented following a 12 week consultation period.

## **Why are we proposing to increase charges permanently**

The cost of providing the services we deliver continues to increase, with estimates suggesting 6% annually. This is due to an increasing health and social care needs of our population (with more people living with complex needs), increasing costs for goods/services, and growing expertise and innovation leading to an increased range of services and technologies available. All of these bring increases in the funding required each year to maintain our services and meet demand. Unless there is a significant immediate increase in the funding available, at the current spending levels the Trust would spend more than the funding allocated.

It has been acknowledged through several strategic reviews that there is a need for service transformation. Transformation alone will not address the financial issues and there is a need for a financial plan that goes beyond an annual cycle so that the service can plan and respond to the issues. Both transformation and robust financial planning are essential so that a safe, efficient and sustainable service is provided.

The Trust believes that given the current financial climate, the increased car parking charges should be made permanent as this will have no direct impact on front line services. Increasing car parking charges permanently at both Antrim Area and Causeway Hospitals – the only two sites in the Trust area with care park charges - will contribute in a small but practical way to help meet increasing non direct care costs.

## **Background to car parking charges on acute sites**

The regional car parking policy ‘Policy for Car Parking Provision and Management in the Health and Social Care Sector’ sets the context for car parking charges and states ‘Charging should be used for payback on

investment and to help cover the cost of the provision and maintenance of car parking including the associated security costs’.

Car parking charges in the Northern Trust area were subject to a 12 week public consultation and a full equality impact assessment in January 2009 prior to being introduced. In 2013 the Trust increased parking tariffs at the acute hospitals sites. The Trust has kept charges static for the last four years and given the financial challenge being faced the Trust, the proposal to temporarily increase car parking charges was included in the Trust’s savings plan for 2017/18. Please see tables below which illustrate car parking tariffs since 2011.

• **2011**

Up to 1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	5-6 hours	6-7 hours	7-8 hours	8 onwards
1.00	1.50	£2.00	£2.50	£3.00	£3.50	£4.00	£4.50	£5.00

• **2013**

Up to 1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	5-6 hours	6-7 hours	7-8 hours	8 onwards
1.10	1.60	£2.00	£2.50	£3.00	£3.50	£4.00		£5.00

• **2018**

Up to 1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	5-6 hours	6-7 hours	7-8 hours	8 onwards
1.30	1.90	2.30	2.50	£3.00	£3.50	£4.00		£5

The Trust currently provides the following number of spaces for visitors on acute hospital sites.

Site	Spaces	Disabled spaces
Causeway Hospital	884	34 (8 spaces free of charge)
Antrim Area Hospital	1658	92 (19 spaces free of charge)

It is important to note that there are a number of exemptions to car park charges which include the following groups.

- Cancer patients
- Renal patients
- Next of kin of those in Intensive Care Unit
- Next of kin of neo-natal patients

In addition, the ward sisters and nursing staff have discretion to issue vouchers to patients for free parking in certain and agreed circumstances including the following.

- A patient who has come in for a routine appointment and been given bad news.
- A patient who has an unplanned admission.
- A patient who has had a procedure and has been under sedation e.g. day surgery.
- Parents / guardians who have been asked to sit with a child

It is also important to note that there is 15 minute drop off/pick up period.

For further information on car parking charges please see 'Frequently Asked Questions' in appendix 1

## Equality duties

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Trust, when carrying out its functions in relation to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between nine categories of persons, namely:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Between persons with dependents and persons without.

Without prejudice to its obligations above, the Trust must also have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) the Trust when carrying out its function must have due regard to the need to:

- Promote positive attitudes toward disabled people; and
- Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

The Trust is committed to the promotion of human rights in all aspects of its work. The Human Rights Act gives effect in UK law to the European Convention of Human Rights and requires legislation to be interpreted so far as possible in a way which is compatible with the Convention Rights. It is unlawful for a public authority to act incompatibly with the Convention Rights. The Trust will make sure that respect for human rights is at the core of its day to day work and is reflected in its decision making process.

The Equality Scheme outlines how we propose to fulfill our statutory duties. Within the scheme, the Trust gave a commitment to apply the screening methodology below to all new and revised policies and where necessary and appropriate to submit these policies to further equality impact assessment.

When screening policies/proposals the Trust will consider:

- What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?
- Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?
- To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?
- Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?



The possible screening outcomes include:

- The policy has been 'screened in' for equality impact assessment (major Impact)
- The policy has been 'screened out' with mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted (Minor Impact)
- The policy has been 'screened out' without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted (No Impact)

In keeping with the commitments in our Equality Scheme the Trust has subjected the proposal to increase car park charges in Antrim Area and Causeway Hospital sites on a permanent basis to equality screening.

A copy of the equality screening template can be found on the Trust's website [www.northerntrust.hscni.net](http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net).

The Trust invites views on this screening assessment and will consider all feedback received during the consultation period.

## Consultation arrangements

We wish to consult publicly on this proposal. The consultation period is from 30 March 2018 to 22 June 2018, a 12 week period of consultation. The consultation document will be issued to all consultees listed on the Trust's consultation database. A list of consultees can be found on the Trust's website or by contacting the Equality Unit (contact details below). A copy of this consultation document is available on the Trust's website at <http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net>.

Some people may need this information in a different format for example a minority language, easy read, large print, Braille or electronic formats. Please let us know what format would be best for you. Contact the Equality Unit – contact details below.

For those who wish to provide written feedback, a **Consultation Questionnaire** is available in appendix 2. It is also available on the Trust Website at <http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net> in a format that is easier to complete. However we welcome your feedback in any format. You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail, letter or fax as follows.

Equality Unit,  
Route Complex  
8e Coleraine Road  
Ballymoney  
Co. Antrim  
BT53 6BP

Tel: 028 2766 1377      Fax: 028 2766 1209  
Mobile Text: 07825667154  
E-mail: [equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net)

Before you submit your response, please read the section on Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises at the end of the consultation questionnaire.

In compliance with legislative requirements, when making any final decision the Trust will take into account the feedback received from this consultation process. A consultation feedback report will be published on the Trust website.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Are patients entitled to free parking?

Yes, some patients are entitled to free parking. Clear criteria has been set out regionally for those who are entitled to free parking. These include:-

- Cancer patients
- renal patients;
- next of kin of those in ICU;
- next of kin of neonatal patients
- parents with Children in hospital

The Trust also operates the regional Hospital Travel Costs Scheme for people on specific benefits and/or low income.

### 2. What is the current car parking charge?

The current charge for parking is:-

Up to 1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	5-6 hours	6-7 hours	7-8 hours	8 onwards	Lost Tickets
1.30	1.90	2.30	2.50	£3.00	£3.50	£4.00		£5	£5

### 3. What can I do if I can't find a parking space?

The traffic management teams based on the Antrim Area and Causeway Hospital sites are available to assist and direct users to a space. They patrol at regular intervals during peak periods

#### **4. What do I do if my ticket doesn't work?**

On exiting the car park if you have a problem, press the buzzer at the exit barrier and you will get speaking to a member of staff who will assist.

#### **5. Where are the pay stations?**

The pay stations are close to exit/entrance points at each of the hospital sites and are clearly marked. The pay stations accept coins and notes (no copper coins or 5 pence pieces). Please note credit / debit cards are not accepted. If you require a cash machine (ATM), there is one located on the ground floor of both hospitals.

If you have difficulty the traffic management teams are located close to reception and can assist.

#### **6. Are there disabled parking spaces?**

Yes, there are disabled parking spaces on all Trust sites. These are located close to the exits/entrances and are clearly marked. These are monitored by a parking enforcement company to ensure they are being used appropriately.

#### **7. Is there Parking Enforcement on sites**

Traffic enforcement is in operation on the hospital sites for those who park inappropriately, for example, in disabled spaces when they do not have a blue disabled badge, parking over two spaces or abandoning a car on the hospital site. A parking charge notice fee of £40 will be payable, as well as payment for your parking ticket for the duration of your stay.

#### **8. Are disabled spaces chargeable?**

Yes, if the spaces are included within the charging zones then you will have to pay.

## **9. Do staff have to pay to park?**

Currently the Trust does not charge staff to park, but the paid car parks are accessible to all. If staff choose to park in a visitor car park they will pay the same tariff.

## **10. Who can help me with issues relation to car parking on the Antrim Area and Causeway Trust Hospital sites?**

The traffic management teams operate between the hours of 6.00am and 10.00pm to assist patients and visitors on their arrival at the hospital and deal with any queries they may have to ensure the smooth running of the new traffic management system. After 10.00pm, the security staff at the hospitals take over this function.

This team ensure the traffic management system is implemented and maintained correctly and are located close to the main reception. They will be able to address any issues in relation to car parking.

## Consultation Questionnaire

### Consultation on permanent increase in car parking charges at the Antrim Area and Causeway Hospitals

The aim of this consultation is to obtain views from stakeholders and the Trust would be most grateful if you would respond by completing a questionnaire, which is available on the Trust website or from the Equality Unit (details below). The closing date for this consultation is 22 June 2018 and we need to receive your completed questionnaire on or before that date. You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail, letter or fax as follows:

Equality Unit  
Route Complex  
8e Coleraine Road  
Ballymoney  
Co. Antrim  
BT53 6BP

Tel: 028 2766 1377  
Fax: 028 2766 1209  
Mobile Text: 07825667154  
E-mail: [equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net)

So that we can acknowledge receipt of your comments please fill in your name and address or that of your organisation. You may withhold this information if you wish but we will not then be able to acknowledge receipt of your comments.

Name:	
Position:	
Organisation (if appropriate):	
Address:	

I am responding: as an individual   
(please tick) on behalf of an organisation

1. Please detail in the box below your views on the Trusts proposal to increase car parking charges in Antrim Area and Causeway Hospital sites on a permanent basis.

2. An outcome of initial equality screening considerations is available on the Trust website. Please detail in the box below your views on the outcome of this screening.

*Before you submit your response, please read the following section on Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.*

### **Trust Response and Freedom of Information Act (2000)**

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust will publish an anonymised summary of the responses received to our consultation process. However, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, particular responses may be disclosed on request, unless an exemption(s) under the legislation applies.

Under the FOIA anyone has the right to request access to information held by public authorities; the Northern Trust is such a public body. Trust decisions in relation to the release of information that the Trust holds are governed by various pieces of legislation, and as such the Trust cannot automatically consider responses received as part of any consultation process as exempt. However, confidentiality issues will be carefully considered before any disclosures are made.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**



# our vision

To deliver excellent integrated services  
in partnership with our community

# our values


**C**OMPASSION

**O**PENNESS

**R**ESPECT

**E**XCELLENCE

[www.northerntrust.hscni.net](http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net)

 Northern Health and Social Care Trust

 @NHSCTrust

If you would like to give feedback on any of our  
services please contact:

**Email:** [user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net)

**Telephone:** 028 9442 4655