

Bahá'í Community

Response to Western Health and Social Care Trust regarding proposed car-parking procedures at Altnagelvin Hospital and South West Acute Hospital

This response is submitted by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Londonderry / Tionól Spioradalta Bhahá'ithe Dhoire, the elected representative body for followers of the Bahá'í Faith in this area.

1. We are grateful for the invitation to comment on these proposals. While at first glance they may seem to have little bearing on the work of a faith community such as ours, we feel that they touch on a number of issues about how public services and the needs and expectations of society interact.
2. In the delivery of such services the principle of equity must be combined with the realisation that the finite nature of resources mean that it is not always possible to completely satisfy everyone.
3. While there may be some objection to the idea that those attending the hospital should pay for their car parking, it is not unreasonable to expect people to make a reasonable contribution towards this facility.
4. It is important that the costs remain reasonable.
5. Those who have to come to the hospital frequently for out-patient or similar attendances should be entitled to some discount arrangement for their parking.
6. It is reasonable for those with medical issues, mobility problems, etc. to expect car parking closer to the main hospital than the more able bodied. For that reason the issuing of a code number for the car-park to people with clinic appointments so that they can use such a park is only fair.

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Bahá'í Centre
5 Clarendon Street
Londonderry
BT48 7EP

www.derrybahais.org.uk

