



Epsom & St Helier U-turn on free hospital parking pledge in 24 hours

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'This funding was earmarked for our NHS Heroes, and the trust shouldn't be trying to take a second bite at the cherry'

The NHS trust at the centre of a car-parking charges scandal has reversed its free parking pledge less than 24 hours after making it.

Following a successful campaign by GMB members, Epsom and St Helier publicly pledged to provide free parking for all of its staff from February 11th.

However, the trust has already u-turned on the original commitment, confirming that staff paid for parking today and are instead introducing a parking prioritisation system.

“ Our members expect free parking at work and do not wish to be forced onto public transport during a pandemic with all of the risks this entails for them and the public.

Helen O'Connor GMB Organiser

The trust made the initial agreement after it came to light that staff were paying up to £500 to park.



Further pressure came on after the Transport Secretary clarified that the trust had been given money specifically for staff to park for free during the pandemic.

GMB has called out the trust for renegeing on its agreement in less than 24 hours, and warned them against taking a 'second bite at the cherry'.

Helen O'Connor GMB Organiser said,

"GMB Members are stunned that the trust is renegeing on its pledge to provide free parking for all staff from today.

"Yesterday they were promised free parking but today informed that there would instead be a parking prioritisation system, which doesn't guarantee all staff can park for free.

"Our members expect free parking at work and do not wish to be forced onto public transport during a pandemic with all of the risks this entails for them and the public.

"This funding was earmarked for our NHS Heroes, and the trust shouldn't be trying to take a second bite at the cherry.

"This isn't their money, and they should immediately pull back from renegeing on this agreement."

