

Date: 10/10/2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/013692 – Car parking

I require to receive from you the total figure of the amount of money taken through the Dudley Russells Hall Hospital Car Park Meters in one year

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust operates a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract. A PFI is a type of public private partnership (PPP) used to fund major capital investments. The hospital buildings are not owned by the Trust but by Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd who the Trust has the PFI contract with. The contract allows the Trust to use the buildings to provide its clinical services. Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd are responsible for providing all of the estates and facility management services to ensure the building (including car parks) are always available for use.

Summit Healthcare (Dudley)Ltd has said that the total receipts for parking are commercially sensitive information and as they are not a Public Body in the terms of the FOI Act, they are not willing to share this information in line with the FOI Act as they believe it will prejudice their commercial interests and provide information to other Private Companies who operate PFI's.

The justification for the charges and how the money is spent is detailed below:

As part of the PFI contract, Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust sub-contract services including car parking to a Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd for a defined number of years. Car parking is incorporated into the Site Management Service which includes maintenance and operating costs. Car Parking fees are used to maintain the car parks and include costs associated with operating activities:

- Security patrols
- Barrier Maintenance and repairs
- Cash Machine maintenance and repairs
- Road marking of the car parks
- Tarmac repairs including potholes
- Maintenance of signage and replacements
- Any damage caused by visitors

Any monies not spent as maintenance and operating are used to subsidise non-medical services under the remainder of the PFI contract. They undertake regular reviews of other NHS bodies and find their car parking charges are broadly comparable if not lower in some cases.

Parking charges apply to all patients and visitors, including those with blue disabled parking permits.

Please see the Trust website for more details regarding patient and visitor parking under the following link:
<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/car-parking/>