

April 2015

Nick Teasdale  
Membership Communications Officer  
British Parking Association

Dear Nick,

**Re: BPA Healthcare Parking Charter Survey consultation response**

I am afraid that we have only had a brief amount of time to consider this questionnaire and the 2013 Charter.

With a membership of over 420,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

It is helpful and welcome that the 2013 Charter recognises that 'staff' are a key group. We would look forward to seeing this in any future version of the Charter.

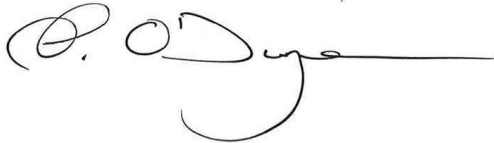
At some hospital sites our members may be parked for the duration of their shift. These shifts are either 'nights' (approx. 8pm to 6/7am), 'Earlies' (approx. 7am to 3pm) and 'Lates' (approx. 3pm to 10pm). Members also increasingly work 12 hour shifts while many may return to the hospital to do extra shifts in an emergency or as part of an on-call / standby arrangement. Often standby/call out visits are at night or in the hours between midnight and 6 am. Other nurses who work predominately in the community may make a number of visits to their hospital / base in a day.

In essence there is one key point we would wish to make which covers many of the questions you have raised and relates to how Charter commitments might be audited effectively.

Each NHS employer will have a forum where elected trade union and professional association representatives negotiate with their employer on terms and conditions, safety and other issues. These are often referred to as the 'joint Negotiating Council (JNC)' or similar. It is to elected representatives that staff car park users will often raise their concerns over cost, standards and safety. It may also be the case that staff directly hear from patients and their families about their experience of the car park and its facilities. It is in the JNC that the matter is raised with the employer directly.

Our recommendation would be that for 'auditing purposes' contact should be made via the employer with Joint Negotiating Council as well as the elected union representatives in each employment setting. The BPA should then ensure that the views of elected representatives are taken into consideration when assessments are made as to whether the Charter standards are being met.

Yours sincerely



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