

Reference Number: FOIAH2425/072
From: Private Individual
Date: 03 May 2024
Subject: Policy banning Electric Vehicles (EVs) from parking at the Catkin & Sunflower building

This request seeks information regarding the policy that bans Electric Vehicles (EVs) from parking at the Catkin & Sunflower building at Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Specifically, I would like to request the disclosure of the following information:

Q1 Policy Details:

- o The date on which the policy banning EVs from parking at the Catkin & Sunflower building was implemented.
- o The rationale behind the policy and the specific reasons for its introduction.

A1 In October 2022 the Trust received information from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service regarding the safe occupation of the car park under the Catkin & Sunflower building. Following this advice, we took the decision not to open the car park when the building opened in November 2022. The Trust's overriding priority is to maintain the safety of patients and colleagues who are working in the clinical facility. We therefore kept the car park closed whilst we worked with specialist fire safety, construction and health and safety advisers to design a programme of work that would put in place adequate controls to support the safe occupation of the car park.

In December 2023 we received confirmation that the car park could be occupied, pending the installation of a sprinkler system, if a series of control measures were in place. The car park opened in January 2024 with the agreed control measures in situ.

Q2 Decision Making Process:

- o Details of the decision-making process that led to the implementation of the policy.
- o Information on any external advice received related to the policy, including the source of the advice and its content.

A2 As per A1.

The decision to re-occupy the car park with agreed control measures was taken following advice from Merseyside Fire and Rescue and the Trust's Fire Risk Assessor.

Q3 Policy Duration:

- o The expected duration of the EV parking ban policy.

A3 We expect to undertake additional works to the car park in 2024 and we will review our access to the car park following the completion of the works and a short period of testing.

Q4 Impact Assessment:

- o Whether any data has been collected on the number of EV drivers who have been turned away from the car park due to the policy.
- o If data exists on missed appointments at the Catkin & Sunflower building due to a lack of

available parking for EVs, particularly when the small, uncovered parking area is full.

- A4 Information not held - No official data has been collected. The Trust is not aware of any missed appointments because of this temporary measure.
- Q5 Fire Safety Considerations:
o Confirmation of whether the fact that Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles are reportedly 20 times more likely to catch fire compared to Battery Electric Vehicles was considered during the policy development process.
- A5 The control measures that we put in place were designed in conjunction with the Fire Service and specialist advice. The measures include restrictions to the hours the car park is open, the number of vehicles, fire drills and walkabouts.
- Q6 Building Information:
o Full details of the ownership structure of the Catkin & Sunflower building.
o Copies of any relevant lease agreements in place regarding the building.
- A6 The Catkin & Sunflower building is owned by Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust.
- Q7 Additional Information
I would appreciate the disclosure of any other relevant information you hold regarding the EV parking ban policy at the Catkin & Sunflower building.
- A7 Not applicable as per A1 - A6.