

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2425/073  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 03 May 2024  
**Subject:** Information regarding the banning Electric Vehicles (EVs) from parking at the Catkin & Sunflower building

**Q1** When was the decision made to ban EVs from the Catkin and Sunflower car park and why was that decision made?

**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** Did you get any external or expert advice before making this decision. If so please could you share the source. (I am struggling to find a precedent for this!)

**A2** 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** When you put this policy into effect did you also consider banning petrol and diesel cars from the car park due to their emissions and the fact that they are more likely to catch fire than an EV?

**A3** 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 of use and the volume of care, and frequent safety drills and walkabouts.

**Q4** How many people have received fines or have been turned away from the car park in an EV?

**A4** We do not store information on the number of vehicles turned away from our car park. We can confirm that we have not issued any fines to drivers of EVs who were seeking to access this car park. For EV users we provide alternative car park facilities and we signpost drivers to these locations.

**Q5** How many complaints have been received since implementing your policy to ban electric vehicles from this car park?

**A5** We have not received a complaint regarding this matter.

- Q6 Is this policy to be EVs temporary with a review date or is it under review in any way?
- A6 We have a number of control measures in place relating to the use of the car park underneath the Catkin & Sunflower House Building. These measures are temporary and will remain in place until the new sprinkler system is installed.