

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2425/076  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 04 May 2024  
**Subject:** EV Parking

Q1 I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning the recent decision to ban electric vehicles (EVs) from parking at Alder Hey Children's Hospital car park. I understand this decision was based on fire safety advice from the fire brigade.

1. **\*\*Specific Advice and Data\*\***: Please provide the specific data and safety assessments received from the fire brigade that influenced this decision. Include any statistical analysis, risk assessments, reports, and meetings minutes that detail the concerns related to EVs and fire risks.
2. **\*\*Comparison with Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles\*\***: Given the publicly available statistics indicating a higher incidence of fires in internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles compared to EVs, as well as major incidents such as the fire at Luton Airport caused by an ICE vehicle, I request a detailed comparative risk assessment. This should include any evidence considered regarding the relative fire risks of EVs versus ICE vehicles within the hospital's premises.
3. **\*\*Justification in Context of Climate Change and Air Quality\*\***: Please provide documentation on how the decision aligns with current government policies on climate change and air quality improvement, especially considering the push towards electrification in transportation as a cleaner alternative.
4. **\*\*Influence of External Parties\*\***: I would also like to understand the extent of any consultations or communications with external parties, including those from the fossil fuel industry, prior to this decision. Please provide details of any lobbying or representations made by such groups in relation to the ban on EVs.

This information is crucial for understanding how such decisions are made, particularly in contexts that significantly impact public health and environmental policies.

A1 In response to your application for information the Trust have undertaken a Public Interest Test and have deemed that both section 31 and 38 should be applied to the request.

In relation to Section 31: The Trust has deemed all information requested to be exempt under s31 – law enforcement, specifically section 31 (1) (a) relating to the prevention and detection of crime. The duty to confirm or deny is also excluded as it would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime (s31(1)(a))

In relation to Section 38: The requested information is held by the Trust however disclosure is being exempted under s38 - Health and safety. Information would or would be likely to (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

To provide additional context in relation to the 'ban' of electric vehicles (EVs) from parking at Alder Hey Children's Hospital car park. There is no policy banning electric vehicles from the car park. In October 2022 the Trust received information from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service regarding the safe occupation of the car park under the new Catkin & Sunflower building; this was not related to the main hospital car park. Following this advice, the Trust took the decision not to open this particular 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 for all vehicle users.

In December 2023 the Trust 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. The Trust has now commenced the procurement process for the new system.