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Date 10th January 2012
Your Ref
Our Ref

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Dear Mr Ritchie,

EPI/12/017 - PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ON STREET PARKING CHARGES

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your paper EPI/12/017 - Proposed revisions to on street parking charges for Foresterhill and Garthdee. Having discussed this with a number of key stakeholders, NHS Grampian wishes to raise concerns at the proposal to significantly increase charges in the Foresterhill controlled parking zone, and would offer the following comments and request that these be considered as part of the Council discussions on this matter.

- We are concerned at the lack of engagement with NHS Grampian relating to the proposal up to this stage. NHS Grampian has been working hard with our staff and the public in relation to the specific Foresterhill Campus proposals. We have not been aware of the ACC charging proposals, and clearly these have not been discussed as part of our consultation process or indeed our permit criteria proposals. As joint transportation partners, we would have hoped for a more participative approach prior to the proposal being developed.
- We fully support the shift from car to public transport - indeed we have been very active in this regard for a number of years, and continue to be so, working with the Local Authorities, Nestrans, and transport operators, and have already made significant progress. However, it has to be recognised that a major limiting factor in terms of further progress is the need for improvements to city bus services, which have been reducing in recent years. Just one example of this is that our efforts to encourage major use of Park & Ride (not least given the daily 800 plus empty spaces at Kingswells) are severely hampered by the fact that the main Park & Ride Service 40 commences too late and finishes too early for a very large proportion of NHS Grampian staff who work various shifts, including the main nursing 7am - 7pm shifts. You will be aware that we are currently working with Nestrans and the city council to try and address this although progress has been limited.
- A 300% increase in daily parking charge alone does not address current issues with parking (both on the NHS site and in the neighbouring streets). A more comprehensive public transport service must be the



answer and as stated above this is not yet available to many of our staff, patients or visitors. Whilst we are aware that many staff and members of the public may have been prepared to pay a £2 charge, we feel it unlikely that many will be able to pay a £6 per day charge, particularly our large numbers of lower paid ancillary staff who are unlikely to qualify for on-site parking. This will be very detrimental to staff morale, and is likely to impact on our recruitment and retention of staff.

- We note that part of the Council's strategy is to address recent decreases in parking income. It is possible that the timing of any increase in charges will come at approximately the same time as the revised NHS access and control arrangements for the Foresterhill Campus site? You will be aware of current Scottish Government Policy on free parking for access to health (relating to NHS sites). We are concerned that our staff and members of the public will incorrectly associate our control changes with your charging increases and that this will be counter-productive to our joint aims on changing attitudes and behaviours relating to travel choices.
- Given the above points, access by car will remain the only option available to many and we would seek delay to any proposals to increase charges until such time as (a) viable public transport alternatives are in place, and (b) our revised control and access arrangements have settled down and become embedded.

I trust these comments will be helpful to the discussion and I would welcome feedback at an early stage so that NHS Grampian can consider and communicate as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mortimer
General Manager Facilities and Estates