

22.09.22

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## Media Release

### **New payment machines and more payment options as new parking provider takes over contract at RUH**

On Friday 23 September a new contractor will take over responsibility for parking at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

As part of the hospital's new contract with Saba UK, all current pay stations will be replaced with new, easier to use payment machines, and more payment options will be made available too.

New barriers will be introduced in the main patient and visitor car park to improve traffic flow and give people the option to pay before they leave.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras will log the time a vehicle has entered the car park. On leaving, all visitors need to do is enter their car registration number into a payment machine to find out how much they need to pay.

Parking for blue badge holders will remain free of charge and free parking will remain in place for those patient groups who need to make frequent visits to the RUH.

Parking charges have been frozen at £2 for the first hour. Two hours' parking will rise from £3 to £3.30 and it will now cost £4.80 to park for three hours, an increase of 80p. This is the first time parking charges have increased in 10 years.

A 20min grace period will remain in place in the patient and visitor car parks and existing time-limited pick up/drop off points also remain.

Larger price rises will apply to people parking for four hours or longer, to deter non-hospital users from parking on site, taking up valuable spaces needed by our patients and visitors.

Brian Johnson, Director of Estates and Facilities, said: “We’re confident that the new infrastructure provided by our contractor will really improve the experience of visiting the hospital site.

“The new machines will be easier to use and there will also be new ways to pay too, including the option for visitors to pay by debit or credit card, Google Pay and Apple Pay as they leave.

“While we understand that nobody likes an increase in parking charges, it has been 10 years since the RUH last increased its parking fees and we have made every effort to keep price rises to a minimum.

“Paid parking ensures a regular turnover of spaces for patients and visitors and discourages people who are not using the hospital from parking there all day and commuting into the city centre.

“Money raised will be used to cover the cost of the car parking contract as well as maintenance, lighting and staffing costs. The model is not designed to raise profit but any additional money that is raised will go back to the RUH.”

Additional support will be in place during the first few days of the new contract to help visitors parking on site and to offer guidance on using the new payment machines and the different options available to pay for parking.

There will be works taking place around the RUH site over the coming weeks to prepare for the start of the new contract. We apologise in advance for any disruption caused and thank you for your patience while the work takes place.

You can find out more information about parking costs and ways to pay on the Saba UK website: <https://www.sabaparking.co.uk/royal-united-hospitals-bath-nhs-foundation-trust>

If you have any questions about the new car parking contract, please email [ruhb.uk@sabagroup.com](mailto:ruhb.uk@sabagroup.com) or call Saba UK’s customer support team on 0300 123 5247.

Information on visiting the RUH by public transport, by bicycle or on foot can be found on the RUH website [here](#)

**Ends**

## Notes to Editor:

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)