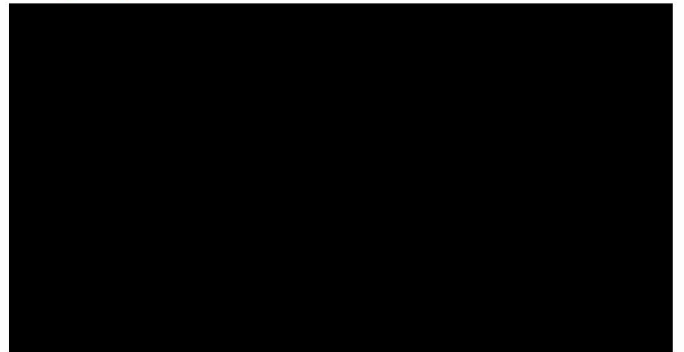




Head of Planning
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor,

**Formal Objection to the Proposed Closure of the Cardiff East Park and Ride -
Reference: 26/00109/HYB**

I am writing to register my formal objection to the proposed closure of the Cardiff East Park and Ride facility in Pentwyn.

I write in a personal capacity as a resident and as a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at the University Hospital of Wales. I am also the consultant lead for our department's Green Emergency Department (Green ED) project, a Royal College of Emergency Medicine initiative, supported by Welsh Government funding, which aims to improve the environmental sustainability of emergency care.

One of the core standards within the Green ED accreditation programme is the promotion of sustainable staff travel. Departments are expected to actively encourage low-carbon transport through the use of public transport, active travel and other environmentally sustainable methods of commuting. This reflects the wider commitment of NHS Wales and the Welsh Government to reduce healthcare's carbon footprint and work towards net zero.

It is therefore deeply concerning that a key piece of sustainable transport infrastructure serving the University Hospital of Wales is proposed to be removed, with no clearly communicated alternative provision.



The Cardiff East Park and Ride provides an essential transport link for hundreds of hospital staff, patients and visitors each day. Its removal appears fundamentally at odds with the environmental objectives that healthcare organisations across Wales are actively working towards. Considerable time, effort and public funding are being invested in programmes such as Green ED to encourage sustainable travel behaviours. Closing a major Park and Ride facility serving Wales' largest hospital risks undermining these efforts and sends a contradictory message about our collective commitment to environmental sustainability.

I would therefore welcome clarification on what alternative arrangements are planned. If this facility is to be closed, what equivalent Park and Ride provision will replace it? How will staff, patients and visitors be expected to access the hospital without increasing congestion, parking pressures and transport-related carbon emissions?

My concerns extend beyond environmental sustainability.

The University Hospital of Wales already experiences significant parking pressures. The Park and Ride provides an affordable and accessible alternative for patients attending outpatient appointments, investigations and treatments. Removing this service without a replacement risks creating additional barriers to accessing healthcare.

Patients who are unable to find parking may arrive late or miss appointments altogether. This has consequences not only for the individual patient but for the wider healthcare system. Missed appointments contribute to wasted clinical capacity and inevitably prolong waiting lists, directly conflicting with the Welsh Government's stated priority of reducing waiting times for planned care.

Perhaps most concerning is the disproportionate impact on our most vulnerable patients. Individuals with limited financial resources, reduced health literacy, language barriers, disabilities or limited social support are often least able to navigate complex appointment systems or advocate for themselves if they miss an appointment. For some, a missed hospital appointment may simply be rearranged; for others, it may result in delayed diagnosis, interrupted treatment or complete loss to follow-up. These are precisely the patients our healthcare system should be striving hardest to support, yet they stand to be disproportionately disadvantaged by the removal of an important and affordable transport option.

While I recognise the need for economic development within Cardiff, such development should not come at the expense of essential public infrastructure without robust mitigation. The proposal to remove a transport facility that directly supports





Environmentally Sustainable Emergency Medicine

access to Wales' busiest hospital raises important questions about whether the wider implications for healthcare access, health inequalities, environmental sustainability and public health have been adequately considered.

I therefore respectfully ask that you:

- Oppose the closure of the Cardiff East Park and Ride until a fully operational replacement has been identified and delivered.
- Clarify what alternative transport provision is planned for staff, patients and visitors attending the University Hospital of Wales.
- Seek assurance that the environmental, healthcare and equality impacts of this proposal have been comprehensively assessed before any final decision is taken.

As someone leading a Welsh Government-funded sustainability programme within emergency medicine, I find it difficult to reconcile this proposal with the ambitions of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, NHS Wales, Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government to reduce carbon emissions, encourage sustainable travel and improve equitable access to healthcare.

I sincerely hope you will support efforts to retain this vital transport link, or at the very least ensure that an equivalent replacement is operational before any closure takes place.

Yours sincerely,

