

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/11071

Date Received: 16th September 2025

Response Due: 14th October 2025

Date: 14th October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 16th September 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Public bodies, including hospitals, have a statutory duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty (as defined in the Equality Act 2010 in the UK) to consider the impact of their decisions on protected groups. The primary goal is to identify if any services, policies, or practices might directly or indirectly discriminate against certain groups. EIAs help ensure that services are accessible and beneficial to everyone, promoting equality of opportunity.

Improve Services:

By highlighting potential issues, EIAs enable hospitals to make informed changes and develop improvement plans to address adverse impacts and barriers faced by specific communities and the process involves consulting with service users and stakeholders, increasing their participation and ensuring diverse needs are considered.

- 1. Please provide a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment carried out prior to the introduction of the new ANPR Parking System at Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust and provide a list of disabled groups and stakeholders consulted.**

Please see the attached Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). ANPR is went live on 1st October 2025, the EIA was developed prior to the introduction of ANPR.

The Trust facilitated public and staff consultations prior to the submission of plans to the Wigan Planning Portal to ensure that all groups had an equal opportunity to share their support and any concerns they may have had. These sessions where open sessions and no formal attendance register/record therefore the Trust cannot provide this information.

2. In particular what consideration was given to disabled drivers unable to find a disabled space and the requirement to enter their registration number before leaving the site, particularly solo wheelchair users.

During the consultation exercises mentioned above, any group of people who may feel they would be disadvantaged in some way by the introduction of ANPR, had an opportunity to share these.

ANPR payment terminals uses technology to stream live pictures of vehicles that match three characters of a registration number that a motorist enters. Touching the picture of their vehicle lets the motorist know the tariff to pay, or that they have registered to park for the free period. Payment machines have been manufactured and installed to ensure they are accessible by all groups and the terminals take both cash and card payments.

Alternatively, The Trusts security can register a blue badge onto the Group Nexus Platform this removes the need to scan the badge every time you visit the hospital. Security will require a copy of the blue badge (front and back) and the vehicle details i.e. registration number, make, model and colour. This can be done at the Security and Car Parks office at RAEI and one of the admin team will copy the badge or this can be emailed to the security department who will process the request.

A person with a valid blue badge is entitled to certain benefits and exemptions. In the NHS (England and Wales), this includes certain parking exemptions. This exemption is subject to local restrictions e.g., hatched areas, double red lines etc. and local signage should be checked by the badge holder regarding these restrictions.

In terms of 'disabled drivers' being unable to find a space. Providing a vehicle is parked legally i.e., not in breach of local restrictions e.g., on a double red line and a valid blue badge is displayed, the vehicle can be parked in any other parking space not allocated solely for blue badge holders.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111