



## Unite Press Release

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### **The £69 million scandal of car parking charges for NHS staff should end, says Unite**

Unite national officer for health Sarah Carpenter said: *“It is a scandal that NHS trusts in England have pocketed nearly £70m from staff car parking charges in the year 2017/18, as it is basically ‘a tax on going to work’ that hard-pressed NHS employees are forced to pay.*

*“Such a large figure, revealed in the NHS Estates Returns Information, will take a big chunk out of the gains in the current NHS pay package which saw most staff get a pay rise of 6.5 per cent over the next three years.*

*“This pernicious trend is replicated by financially squeezed trusts across England – our members are being used as an extra income stream for these trusts.*

*“We would like a situation where dedicated NHS staff, who don’t earn a fortune, don’t have to pay to park their cars to go to work to look after the sick, the vulnerable and the injured 365 days a year.”*

New figures from NHS Digital, which collects data for and about the health service, show that in the 2017/2018 year, health trusts cashed in on £69.5m in parking charges and fines from NHS workers.

This was in addition to £157m raised from parking charges and fines on patients and visitors in the same year, which brought the total raised by the NHS on car parking to £226m.

Car parking income this year is significantly up from 2016/2017, when NHS trusts collected £174m.

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Unite represents workers in Britain and Ireland with members working across all sectors of the economy. The general secretary is Len McCluskey.