

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star online
Date of article	Thursday 17 th May 2012
Reporter	Adam Burling
Headline	Hospital parking charge for staff called immoral
First paragraph/s of article	Higher parking charges for staff at a Black Country hospital have been blasted as “immoral” by union chiefs who fear workers’ pensions could be hit.
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	NA
Press enquiry	We have received a couple of calls from staff worried the salary sacrifice scheme will affect their pension contributions. Will it affect their pension contributions?
Also issued to:	NA
Trust response	
<p>The Salary Sacrifice Scheme will possibly affect pension contributions, as the NHS Pension Scheme does not accept salary sacrifice arrangements for this purpose.</p> <p>When the scheme was first discussed with union representatives it was acknowledged that there would be a negligible impact on pensions.</p> <p>By taking part in the scheme, pension contributions will be calculated by reference to reduced salary. However, the amount of any reduction is likely to be minimal as the NHS Pension Scheme bases pension on final salary.</p> <p>Currently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For members of the 1995 section of the NHS Pension Scheme pension is calculated on the best of the last three years’ salary. • For members of the 2008 section of the NHS Pension Scheme pension is calculated on the average of the best three consecutive years in the last ten years. 	

Changes to the pension scheme are likely to come into force in 2015 but the Trust will keep this under review and tell staff of any changes that may affect their pension.

Staff may not wish to join the salary sacrifice schemes within three years of retirement, as pension related benefits may be calculated on salaries within that period.