

Leicester hospitals slash free staff transport



Leicester hospitals have slashed free transport for staff, a move which GMB Union has branded 'a pay cut by stealth'.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust currently provides a 'hopper' service, allowing staff to travel between sites for free.

But from 25 August, NHS workers will be charged £1.80 for using the bus service from non-hospitals sites.

GMB has launched a 'Hands Off Our Hopper' campaign, calling on the trust to:



- Reverse the £1.80 charge
- Guarantee free, accessible transport for all NHS staff
- Consult properly with workers and unions before making such decisions

Jim Clarke, GMB Regional Organiser, said:

"This is a direct attack on the pay and dignity of NHS staff who rely on the hopper to travel between sites as part of their daily duties.

"It's a pay cut by stealth and could be the first step towards full fares, fewer stops, or no service at all.

"This isn't just about a bus fare – it's about fairness and respect.

"This charge discriminates against lower-paid and multi-site NHS workers the hardest, and it will have the effect of encouraging more car use.

"GMB's message to UHL is simple – keep your hands off our Hopper."

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