

Specialist Estates Services Notification 23/10

25 October 2023

For action by:

Board Level Directors (Fire)

For information only:

Chief Executives

Estates/Facilities Directors and Managers, Fire Safety Managers, Fire Safety Advisors

Copy to: Head of Capital Estates and Facilities Department of Health and Social Care,
Welsh Government

Dear Colleague,

Carpark Fire Risks - Multi-storey, enclosed car parks, and car parking in close proximity to healthcare buildings

The recent London Luton Airport car park fire, where fire swept through a multi-storey car park damaging over 1000 vehicles, causing partial collapse of the structure and extensive impact on service delivery, again highlights the potential risk and service impact caused by vehicle fires.

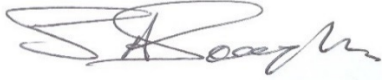
Recognising the increasing size of vehicles, materials used, and engine technology trends, the potential consequences of car-to-car fire spread and the associated firefighting challenges are a growing concern.

The NHS estate in Wales has several existing multi-story car parks, of varying vehicle capacity and deck levels, in addition to premises with undercroft parking. Furthermore, there are a number of ongoing projects that include new multi-story, basement or undercroft car parking facilities.

Accordingly, NHS organisations are reminded of the importance of reviewing their fire risk assessments and fire management systems regarding their parking arrangements. Not only should this address any multi-story or enclosed car parks but also parking (and charging facilities) located near healthcare buildings. In addition to life safety aspects, consideration must also be given to the potential impact on service delivery, noting vehicle fires can result in protracted incidents.

Any enquiries on the content of this letter should be addressed to Anthony Pitcher, Senior Fire Safety Advisor on 02920 904120 or e-mail anthony.pitcher@wales.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Douglas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stuart Douglas BSc (Hons), PGDip, MRICS, MAPM

Director Specialist Estates Services

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