



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Carol Shillabeer  
Interim Chief Executive  
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board  
Block 5, Carlton Court  
St Asaph Business Park  
St Asaph  
LL17 0JG

28 June 2023

Dear Carol,

I recently visited the Maelor Hospital to look at the car parking situation following a number of complaints from residents. I have to say that the situation was dreadful and wholly unacceptable.

The car park was packed full, and vehicles were stranded on grass verges, walkways and pavements. Even the parking wardens I spoke to were sympathetic to the situation.

I have heard unacceptable cases of patients missing long-awaited appointments because they have been unable to park. This is causing unnecessary stress and worry for people at a time when it is hard enough getting a hospital appointment. It is also costing the NHS in missed and rescheduled appointments. It must also be unbearable for NHS staff who have a late shift!

I am calling on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Wrexham Council to urgently work with me to find a solution to the parking issues at the Maelor. Whilst I welcome that the planned Plas Gororau site will provide extra parking spaces close to the hospital, this is not due to happen until late August at the earliest and will only minimally reduce the current problems.

In the interim, and moving forward, there are a number of possible solutions:

- A park and ride scheme could be established. Could Wrexham Council assist in finding a suitable location for people to park their cars?
- Shuttle buses should be running frequently from Wrexham Bus Station to the Maelor, via the train station.
- A multi-storey car park, whilst not an immediate fix, would alleviate the parking pressures. Does the Health Board or Council know of any plans to consider this?
- As with other hospitals in England, private companies operate multi-storey car parks which charge, with staff and patients receiving parking dispensation. This option has been suggested to me by numerous constituents who feel free parking for all, including local office workers or city shoppers, has exacerbated the problem due to the hospital being city centre located.

Whilst I appreciate this is a challenging issue, it is one that is not going away. We are all well aware of the challenges facing the NHS in Wales, so it is nonsensical that much-needed hospital appointments are being missed simply because of a lack of adequate parking facilities at the Maelor.

I would be willing to facilitate an in-person meeting with both the Health Board and Wrexham Council to resolve this issue and look forward to your responses.

Yours sincerely,



**Sarah Atherton MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Wrexham**

CC: Ian Bancroft, Chief Executive of Wrexham Council