

NHS Western Isles embraces sustainability with new 25p surcharge on single-use drink cups

In a move to reduce waste and support environmental sustainability, the dining rooms and vending machines within Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway and Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh in Benbecula will implement a 25p surcharge on single-use drink cups, starting Monday, June 23.

To support the transition away from these, reusable takeaway cups have been distributed to NHS Western Isles staff as part of the organisation's Rest, Rehydrate and Refuel campaign, linked to staff wellbeing. Staff are encouraged to bring and use these cups in dining areas to avoid the surcharge and help reduce the organisation's environmental footprint. This change reflects NHS Western Isles' ongoing commitment to sustainability and was funded through the board's Endowment Funds.



If any staff member hasn't received a takeaway cup yet, please contact HR. Single-use cups will continue to be provided at vending machines during out of hours, for visitor use.

This initiative follows growing concern over the environmental and financial impact of disposable cups, with NHS Western Isles using approximately 52,000 single-use cups each year - contributing to Scotland's annual total of 388.7 million. The cost of providing single-use drinks cups to the organisation is significant, reaching up to £6,000 annually.

Members of the public are also being encouraged to bring in reusable takeaway cups, to avoid the 25p surcharge if they are ordering takeaway beverages.

More information on the impact of single-use cups can be found at <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/resources/single-use-cups-scotland>.



For further information please email wi.sustainability@nhs.scot