

# **NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES ARCHIVES**

## **Serving NHS Grampian**

Northern Health Services Archives administers the archives of NHS Grampian. These are held in Aberdeen and comprise the records of hospitals and other health-related institutions and organisations that have existed and/or still exist in the Grampian area. The records go back to 1739, to the founding of the Aberdeen Infirmary.

Most of the records from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are of hospitals - general and specialist hospitals, cottage hospitals and asylums. These have information not only on the administrative and financial affairs of the hospitals but also on individuals who were patients, staff or managers. There are also records of members of the general public who contributed to local hospitals in the time before the National Health Service by means of annual subscriptions, donations or legacies. As some of the capital of the larger hospitals was tied up in land, estate papers are also to be found among some hospital records. In addition there are records from three local poorhouses which in 1948 were to become hospitals in the newly-formed NHS.

Material from the 20th century includes the minutes of the local National Insurance Committees set up under the 1911 National Health Insurance Act and the records of the various NHS administrative bodies, ie the North Eastern Regional Hospital Board (1948-74) and its constituent Boards of Management, local Executive Councils and, from 1974, Grampian Health Board. Also contained in the archives are records of various local authority health departments which, prior to 1974, had responsibility for a range of healthcare services including prevention of epidemics, mother and child welfare, and school medical services.

Access to the archives is by appointment and readers who wish to do extensive research should contact the archivist well in advance of their proposed visit. It should be noted that some records, particularly those containing confidential, personal or medical information, are normally closed for periods of 75 or 100 years.

Records may be consulted by appointment on weekdays during normal office hours. Please contact the archivist, Miss Fiona R Watson, at Northern Health Services Archives, Victoria Pavilion, Woolmanhill Hospital, Aberdeen AB25 1LD (telephone 01224 555562, e-mail [grampian.archives@nhs.net](mailto:grampian.archives@nhs.net)).