

Daily Brief...



Monday 1 December 2025

Chief Executive's blog With a new month, comes a new blog post from Laura Skaife-Knight. Laura has undertaken to publish a blog on the first Monday of each month. This month, Laura focuses on planned care, our financial position, and responding to our iMatter results for 2025. You can read the blog post in full [via this link](#) or visit Working with Us>HR Portal>Chief Executive's Update on the NHS Grampian website. Laura is keen to hear your feedback; you can get in touch with her directly via laura.skaife-knight@nhs.scot

Launch of HIV Informed Today, on World AIDS Day, Waverley Care, NHS Scotland, and the Scottish Government have launched HIV Informed, a free online learning hub for Scotland's health and social care workforce. HIV Informed challenges outdated knowledge, provides up-to-date information, and supports everyone to deliver inclusive care. Stigma remains a serious challenge for many people living with HIV, particularly in health and social care settings. [This short video, produced for this campaign](#), reveals the impact this stigma has on people with HIV.

[You can find out more about the HIV Informed campaign on their dedicated website via this link.](#)

[Further information on prevention and testing is available on the intranet via this link.](#)

Reminder - festive salary submission deadlines Due to earlier payroll deadlines in December and January, and the public holidays during the festive period, the deadlines for submission of all e-ESS Manager Self Service changes, paper claim travel documentation, finalising of Optima, and authorising of SSTS require to be earlier than normal. A full run through of [the deadline dates and times is available on the intranet via this link](#). Please note, deadlines begin to apply from this week, so your early attention to this matter is required.

Metals and batteries - think before you throw! We all produce waste, so it's important we deal with it in the right way. We all need to segregate our waste correctly to keep people safe and meet our legal responsibilities. And we want to put our waste in the right bins – we can reduce our environmental and financial impact too. Why are we so concerned with metal and batteries? Put simply, there have been several near misses at our waste contractor recently, due to these items ending up in Orange stream bins.

To help combat the risk placing batteries and hard metals into our Orange bag pedal bins poses, stickers are now available for the lids of these bins across Grampian. They are designed to fit onto the lids of large pedal bins without the need to remove existing stickers and are available to order from Resources [by following this link](#). All available waste and recycling stickers and posters can be [viewed by following this link](#).

Scottish Public Pension Agency (SPPA) newsletter The SPPA have recently released a new edition of their member newsletter. This edition shares the key findings of their member survey, provides an update on delivery of the 2015 Remedy, and give a step-by-step guide to retiring. A link to the newsletter can be found in the SPPA Newsletters section of the [pensions intranet page via this link](#) (follow the menu on the right-hand side of the page) or [on the SPPA website by following this link](#).

ICYMI - Fitters Forum (coils/implants) update Grampian Sexual and Reproductive Health Service are holding their annual Fitters Forum (Coils/Implants) Update training event next Monday (8 December), 6.30-8pm on Teams. The event is aimed at the multi-agency team involved in sexual and reproductive health. This training event would be of relevance to current implant and intrauterine contraceptive fitters. Booking is via Turas, [simply follow this link and log-in to book your place](#). Please submit any questions in advance of the event and direct any general enquiries to gram.srhtraining@nhs.scot.

Congratulations to our new Queen's Nurses We are thrilled to share two of our outstanding community nurses have been awarded the title of Queen's Nurse. Rachael McBride, specialist nurse in child protection, and Lisa Malcolmson, regional consultant nurse for perinatal mental health & deputy clinical director, mental health specialisms, both participated in a nine-month development programme run by the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland. A total of 18 nurses, working across Scotland, were awarded the title of Queen's Nurse at an event in Edinburgh last Friday.

Pause for thought Dancing in the storm, or waiting for the rain to pass - what will help sustain you through this time?

Tune of the day I love it when you introduce me to artists I've never heard of, as Catherine Bolt, chronic pain nurse, has done today. To mark Scotland's patron saint, here's Dundee's very own Saint Andrew with [Ananiginaneana](#) (this does come to a sudden stop, unfortunately, it's only version I could find on YouTube) (EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot