

Friday 12 June 2026

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**Agreement of de-escalation criteria - message from Laura Skaife-Knight** *As an organisation we were placed in Stage 4 of the NHS Scotland Support & Intervention Framework in May of last year. Following strong progress in 2025, since the start of this year we have been working with Scottish Government through its Assurance Board to lead the development of criteria for our de-escalation to Stage 3.*

*A paper outlining these our agreed de-escalation criteria was shared at yesterday's public board meeting. This marks a significant positive step forward for us all following much hard work by staff across the organisation. The criteria have been agreed, with the exception of unscheduled care and planned care metrics, which are under discussion and will be finalised in the coming months. We will report our progress against these criteria at each public board meeting. Realistically any decision on de-escalation will not come until January 2027 at the earliest.*

*We should be proud of how far we have come. This is another important moment and step forward. I'd encourage everyone to read the paper for themselves; [it is available via this link](#).*

*Best wishes,*

*Laura*

**Chair's board report** Following yesterday's board meeting, our chair, Alison Evison, has prepared her usual summary of discussions. [It is available to read by following this link](#).

**IT equipment turnaround times and how you can help** Due to increasing demand and industry-wide supply constraints, turnaround times for IT equipment may be longer than usual, equipment may be fixed rather than replaced and older equipment may be prioritised over new requests. Please review any IT equipment where you are that is no longer in use and arrange for its return to the Digital Directorate. [Follow this link to read the full update](#).

**Shared Learning Events** The June Shared Learning Event will take place via Teams, next Wednesday (17 June), between 12-1pm. The presenters will be Duff Bruce (DGH clinical director) and Alasdair Pattinson (DGH general manager); the topic is 'An Adverse Event Review - Care of an Individual with Learning Disabilities in Primary and Secondary care'.

These shared learning events are organised by the quality improvement and assurance team (QIAT), and held monthly, to share knowledge and learning. Typical topics for discussion include clinical and adverse events, complaints, and Ombudsman cases. Access to past recordings can be found on the

[QIAT intranet page by following this link](#) or in the dedicated Teams channel. If you would like to join the group, attend this session, or discuss presenting at future events, please contact [gram.qiat@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.qiat@nhs.scot)

**Upcoming NoS adult major trauma education session** The next adult major trauma education session will take place on Thursday 18 June, 12-1pm, via Teams. The topic is 'Maxillofacial Trauma', presented by Dr Rory Morrison. No need to book, [simply use this link to join the meeting](#). To view recordings of previous education sessions, [follow this link to the NHS Scotland North website](#).

**ICYMI?** This acronym often appears in the brief, but it was highlighted this week not everyone may know what it stands for. We're happy to confirm it means In Case You Missed It and we use it when repeating items.

### **That was the week that was**

Monday 8 – Ask Laura – June edition, changes to Basic Life Support training

Tuesday 9 – update on closure of Orange Zone cafe, medicine efficiency – we want your ideas

Wednesday 10 – essential works to ARI busport, plea for return of unused bleeps/pagers

Thursday 11 – Executive Team update, echocardiography test requests – move to TrakCare

All briefs are stored online, [just click this link](#) or visit Working with Us>HR Portal>NHSG Staff Daily Briefs on the NHS Grampian website.

**Metallica back blood donation** Heavy metal heroes Metallica are on tour across Europe this summer and are encouraging fans to become blood donors. This includes a shout out to our friends in SNBTS, which we are in full support of. Whether you are a new or returning donor, you will get a warm welcome at any donor centre, including at Foresterhill. Find out how to make an appointment or your nearest community donation clinic [via this link to the Scotblood website](#). When it comes to saving lives, nothing else matters.

**STAR Award** Another Friday, another team STAR Award presentation. This time the honours go to the Ward 4 collective at DGH, recognising their outstanding commitment to service improvement, quality, and staff wellbeing. Kindness, respect, and collaboration were all mentioned in their nomination, along with a commitment to student learning and ongoing development. Well done to all the team! If you know a team, or individual, STAR, making a nomination couldn't be easier; [all you need to do is complete the short form available via this link](#).

**Tune of the day** Next week, Mandy Urquhart and an amazing band of volunteers are going to be filling dementia activity boxes, ready to go out to wards ([find out more about the boxes via this link](#)). Huge thanks to them for their efforts and to the NHS Grampian Charity for funding the boxes. Dementia Nurse Consultant Lyn Pirie wants to show her gratitude and has requested [With A Little Help From My Friends](#).

School nurse Karen Buchan is moving on to a new job in the North Aberdeenshire school nursing team. Her Garioch colleagues say she'll be a big miss, but they wish her all the best. For Karen, here's Queen and [Don't Stop Me Now](#).

Scotland's men play their first 2026 World Cup game in the early hours of Sunday morning. Here's to them, and here's to everyone watching; ca' canny and don't go over the score. [Yes Sir, I Can Boogie](#) is really the only choice.

With the additional public holiday on Monday, it's a long weekend for many of us. Enjoy it, whatever your plans. If you're working through, thank you (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)