

Daily Brief...



Friday 17 April 2026

Update - planned downtime – APEX Laboratory system – tomorrow As shared earlier this week, the APEX Laboratory system will be unavailable between 7.30am-2pm tomorrow (Saturday), and labs will offer an emergency service only to secondary care. [Full details of this are available via this intranet link.](#) The unavailability of APEX does not apply to Medical Genetics; please continue to send genetics samples with request forms as normal.

During this period, all point of care testing (POCT) results usually reported to TrakCare will be unavailable on TrakCare. This includes blood gas, blood glucose & ketones, and others. POCT can continue to be performed as normal; results will be retained and transmitted to the TrakCare patient record once the system is fully functional.

Aroma Cairngorm closure – Tuesday 21 April Aroma Cairngorm will be closed between 8am-1pm (approximately) on Tuesday 21 April, to allow for essential electrical works. We apologise for any inconvenience; all other retail catering units will be open as usual. As a reminder, these outlets are currently cash only (**except** Aroma ECC and Jubilee).

UK COVID-19 Inquiry – latest report published The fourth report from this inquiry has been published, focusing on the development of vaccines and therapeutics. [You can read the report in full via this link.](#)

Health Equity + Learning Project (HELP) update HELP was an 18-month Scottish Government Child Poverty Practice Accelerator project, gathering experiences of barriers to Grampian families attending healthcare appointments for their children. Families, those that support them, third and community sectors, council and NHS staff all fed back their views and experiences. The project established the following tests of change:

- Access to transport (including up front financial support for transport-related costs for those on low incomes and out of hours transport)
- Access to food and meals while at RACH (costs can be prohibitive for some families)
- Improved access to laundry facilities (2 more machines)

This support for families on low incomes continues; please contact welfare.rights@aberdeenshire.gov.uk telephone 01467 538555 or contact the Archie Foundation on 01224 559559 or hello@archie.org for more information. To see the final report on HELP, [please follow this link.](#) Thank you to all who engaged with HELP.

Reminder - nursery open mornings Open mornings at Woodend and Little Acorns (Royal Cornhill) have been arranged to give new/prospective parents the chance to look around. These nurseries are open to the children of NHS Grampian employees only. The open mornings will take place as follows:

- Woodend Nursery, Saturday 18 April, 10am-12pm
- Little Acorns Day Nursery, Saturday 25 April, 9.30-11.30am

Questions? Get in touch with nursery administrator, Laura Yeoman, at laura.yeoman@nhs.scot.

That was the week that was

Monday 13 – car parking behaviour, Scottish non-healing wounds data collection project

Tuesday 14 – iMatter returns for 2026, bowel cancer awareness

Wednesday 15 – Executive Team weekly report, adult cardiology – trial of OrderComms for outpatient referrals

Thursday 16 – data security/keeping devices secure, green car salary sacrifice scheme update

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.

STAR Award Our warmest congratulations to Dara Wilson, a community dietitian, on her recent STAR Award presentations. Through clear explanations, reassurance, and expert guidance, Dara helps to bring confidence and stability to the people in her care. She ensures individuals feel listened to, respected, and fully informed. Well done, Dara, and thank you for everything you do! 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 A bumper crop today; let's go! Kris Gordon and Vikki Douglas have their final day with the community nursing referral team at Foresterhill; they are off to new roles within the Hospital@Home service. Christine says they've been a vital part of the team for the past few years and will be much missed. For Kris and Vikki, here's Beyoncé and [Irreplaceable](#)

A farewell of a different kind; Chloe Castle, part of the catering admin team at ARI/RCH, finishes up on maternity leave today. Lesley and all the gang wish her the very best and lots of luck with her new bundle of joy. For Chloe, [Baby by Justin Bieber](#)

Sarah McGillivray, management team secretary at Woodend, is 50 on Sunday. The number 1 the day she was born was [Save Your Kisses for Me](#) by Brotherhood of Man (as performed at Eurovision, which they won). A very happy birthday from all your colleagues!

And finally, a very personal request from Fiona and Vicky, from our retail catering team. Fiona has her final radiotherapy treatment today; Vicky completed chemotherapy a few weeks ago. Both are incredibly grateful to the ANCHOR unit and radiotherapy teams and are keen to mark this milestone. Vicky is a big George Ezra fan, while Fiona is off to see Rick Astley in London very soon. Helpfully, these two worlds collide as Rick is fond of covering [Shotgun](#) (he flings in a bit of Call Me AI for good measure, too).

Whatever the coming weekend holds, have a good one. 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