

Daily Brief...

Thursday 18 September 2025



Ask Adam This month's [Ask Adam](#) is a particularly meaningful one - it's the final Q&A with Dr Adam Coldwells before he retires after more than 30 years with the organisation. We also want to take a moment to warmly welcome Laura Skaife-Knight, who has been appointed as our new Chief Executive. Laura brings a wealth of experience and a strong people-first ethos - we're excited to see what the future holds under her leadership. As always - time stamps below, to allow you to skip to the section most relevant to you:

- [00:00](#) Introduction
- [00:33](#) Updates on stage 4
- [07:04](#) Winter flu vaccine importance
- [09:03](#) Goodbye and thank you to Adam
- [09:44](#) Adam's parting words

Got a question or some feedback? Drop us a line at gram.communications@nhs.scot – and let us know if you'd like to stay anonymous.

Stop press – extra staff 'flu clinic, ARI Thanks to exceptional demand – 170 people were vaccinated there last week – another drop in 'flu vaccination clinic has been arranged at the ARI fracture clinic (Level 0, Green Zone). It will take place **tomorrow** (Friday) between 9am and 4pm. A big thank you to everyone who has come along already; clinics have been busy and it's great to see. Details of all the dedicated staff 'flu clinics are on the intranet, under 'Latest News'

Clinical Biochemistry and Haematology labs – contingency during cold water shutdown As highlighted in yesterday's brief, there is a planned shutdown of the ARI cold water supply for critical repairs this Sunday (21 September) commencing at 8am for approximately 8-10 hours. The automated analysers in Clinical Biochemistry and Haematology depend on stable water supplies to function and this shutdown has the potential to impact our ability to provide service. To conserve our internal water reservoirs and ensure we can continue to process samples during this prolonged period we are asking you **to only send critical/urgent samples for testing during this period**. Please carefully consider the clinical importance of the requested test and if it can wait until after the shutdown period. We may vet sample requests using the clinical details provided as well as priority locations and hold routine samples back until the shutdown has passed.

Windows 11 upgrade – the final push A big thank you to everyone who has already upgraded their devices to Windows 11; more than three quarters of the compatible machines across the organisation are now running the new system. With two weeks left, it is vital all remaining, eligible, devices are upgraded. This will avoid cyber security risks and additional financial costs. If you've been ignoring the upgrade prompt to date, please act now. Unless the Digital team have been made aware of a genuine reason to stay on Windows 10 (e.g., software compatibility), machines which could run Windows 11 may inevitably lose network access to files and systems until they are updated.

As a rough guide, any device with a serial number starting with NHSG18, NHSG19, NHSG20, NHSG21, NHSG22, NHSG23, NHSG24, NHSG25 should be upgradeable. We've started pushing the upgrade to all compliant machines, but this depends on devices being powered on and having enough disk space. Some upgrades may need to be completed manually. Managers, please ensure your team has upgraded, or has a plan to do so. If you know there are blocks to upgrading, such as software compatibility, please inform the Digital team immediately.

Why are we promoting the upgrade so much? It's simple; Windows 10 is approaching end-of-support, meaning no future security patches. Unsupported systems are a major cyber risk. We must meet national security standards and running out of date systems could lead to breaches. As highlighted above, devices which aren't updated may lose access to the network, making your job harder to do.

Please do everything you can to ensure your devices—and those in your area—are upgraded before **Wednesday 1 October**. If you need help or advice, please contact the IT Service Desk.

Foresterhill site steam shutdown – 4pm, today There will be a site-wide shutdown of the steam system at Foresterhill from 4pm this afternoon until 4am tomorrow morning. Steam dependent processes and equipment will be unavailable throughout and there will be limited heating and hot water. Departments affected should ensure they have contingency plans in place. For emergencies during the shutdown, please call 01224 553406.

MSK and orthopaedic podiatry services – call for feedback We're seeking feedback from staff and users on our Musculoskeletal (MSK) and Orthopaedic Podiatry Services to help us identify areas for improvement and enhance the quality of care we provide. There are two surveys – links below – simply complete the one which applies to you. All responses are anonymous.

[For the staff survey click here.](#)

[For the service user survey click here.](#)

Early pregnancy loss memorial service The Autumn memorial service for babies lost in early pregnancy will take place next Wednesday (24 September) in the East Chapel, Aberdeen Crematorium, at 10.30am. All welcome; if you require further information, contact the spiritual care team on Ext 53316 or via gram.spiritualcare@nhs.scot

Upcoming public holiday A reminder this coming Monday (22 September) is a designated public holiday for NHS Grampian.

Tune of the day The team in RACH outpatients are in a celebratory mood, as Elaine K marks her 50th birthday. She's off to Ibiza, so her colleagues have asked for [We're Going To Ibiza](#) by Vengaboys.

For T-shirt Day, Ann Stewart in Aberdeenshire HSCP has rifled through her collection and selected Bon Jovi – the first gig she went to – requesting [It's My Life](#). Similarly, The Mission was the first gig for Carol

Waters, secretary in the ARI speech and language therapy department. She still has the t-shirt and while she's not wearing it today, she's asking for [Deliverance](#) as a result. Me? Oh, I'm reppin' for Scissor Sisters after their AMAZING show in Glasgow earlier this year. [Land Of A Thousand Words](#) should do (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