

Friday 19 December 2025



As well as sharing this Christmas card from Laura and Alison as Chief Executive and Chair, we are [pleased to share this longer piece from them both](#), reflecting on what we have achieved in 2025 and looking ahead to 2026.

Staff 'flu clinics - ARI - next week If you have still to get your 'flu jab, there will be staff vaccination clinics in healthpoint on the ARI main concourse (beside the public waiting area/reception desk) on Monday and Tuesday, between 9am-4pm. All NHS staff, and social care staff who have direct client contact, are eligible for a free 'flu jab. We strongly encourage everyone eligible for vaccination to get their jab.

ARI Rotunda car park closure As a reminder car park to the right of the Rotunda entrance (as you look at the entrance) will be closed from 6pm tonight until approximately 4pm on Sunday. This is to allow for crane operations. We apologise for any inconvenience; please ensure vehicles are removed from this area by 6pm.

WATCH project highlights importance of care home research Residents in older adult care homes are frequently prioritised for vaccination programmes, but trials of new vaccines seldom recruit from this population. Widening Access to Trials in Care Homes (WATCH) has been set up to develop best practice guidance on conducting trials in care homes. The project team involves researchers from NHS Grampian, along with academics from across Scotland. [You can read more about their work via this link.](#)

A geriatrician's letter to Santa – the big man responds Cast your mind back to Christmas 2022, when geriatrician Dr Clare Bostock wrote a letter to Santa, [published in the Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh](#). Well, I'm delighted to say he has written back. Yes, it took him a bit of time, but he's a very busy man, to be fair. To see what he has to say for himself, [simply follow this link.](#)

That was the week that was

Monday 15 – supporting vulnerable people over the festive period, Clinical Biochemistry festive arrangements

Tuesday 16 – 'flu update, virtual carol service available on YouTube, Conversation Cafes supporting recovery

Wednesday 17 – Chief Executive Team update, COVID inquiry – do not destroy order

Thursday 18 – update on reduced working week planning, reminder of festive pay and on-call arrangements

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 We tip our collective hats to Louise Jessel, staff nurse on Brodie Ward at Royal Cornhill, following presentation of her STAR Award. Louise has been an incredible preceptor, offering unwavering patience and guidance during a colleague's first year as a newly qualified Nurse Practitioner. She took time to explain complex treatments step by step, never losing patience, and her mentorship has been transformative—building confidence, advancing clinical skills, and fostering effective teamwork. Do you know a STAR like Louise? 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 Unusual tunes, festive standards, it's all happening today. Let's go! Catherine Bolt from the chronic pain service gets things moving with The Sensational Alex Harvey Band and [There's No Lights On The Christmas Tree Mother, They're Burning Big Louie Tonight.](#)

Stewart Ord, a member of the digital directorate, highlights [Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence](#), performed here by Kraftwerk, but originally composed by Ryuichi Sakamoto.

Lambrini Psiouri, a consultant in neonatology at AMH, reminds us of the reason for the season with her suggestion of [We Three Kings](#) as sung by Beza Worships.

Deborah Hay, immunisation nurse, admits she's feeling a little Grinch-y but requests Chris Rea and [Driving Home For Christmas](#) all the same.

Susan Brotherston, a secretary within the child and adolescent mental health service, knows a Bob Dylan request will always go over well with me; [Must Be Santa](#) is dedicated to all her colleagues.

Finally, finally, a shout out to Caroline Bell, part of the theatres team at DGH, who marks 40 years with NHS Grampian this Sunday. Deserving of respect and deserving of a request; [Paint It Black](#) is for Caroline.

It's Mad Friday. If you're out tonight, ca' canny. As ever, thank you, and if you wrap up today for the festive break, enjoy (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