

Thursday 2 April 2026

Save the dates! Staff briefings on Priorities for Delivery 2026/27 Laura Skaife-Knight and the executive team will be leading two staff briefing sessions on our brand-new Priorities for Delivery 2026/27 next week and the week after. These will take place via Teams on Tuesday 7 April, 12-12.30pm; [follow this link to join](#) and Tuesday 14 April 11.30am-12pm; [follow this link to join](#). There is no need to register in advance, simply follow the relevant links at the right time. All are welcome.

Keen to understand what the priorities are, in advance of the briefings? They were presented to our board at their meeting last month and set out key areas we will focus on over the next year. To read the papers in full, [simply follow this link and go to Item 7 on the agenda](#). Laura and our executive team look forward to updating you and sharing more details in the coming weeks and to hearing and responding to your questions.

Pension Contribution Rate Scottish Public Pensions Agency recently published a circular advising of updated employee pay bandings and contribution tiers to be applied from April 2026. To read it in full, [simply follow this link](#). Remember, we have a dedicated pensions intranet page which provides all the information you need; you can find it [by following this link](#).

International recruitment team – here to help The North of Scotland international recruitment team is available to support managers with both recruitment and educational guidance for their internationally recruited employees. The team provides specialist expertise throughout the recruitment journey, including advertising, longlisting, immigration advice, and offers structured educational and pastoral support to help new staff transition successfully into their roles. This collaborative service, delivered across NHS Grampian, Highland, Orkney and Shetland, ensures managers have access to consistent, knowledgeable support from initial appointment to employee starting within your service. We can be contacted on gram.internationalcollaborations@nhs.scot

ICYMI - retail catering – price increases Effective from next Monday (6 April) there will be a small increase in prices across all retail catering outlets. Retail catering is not subsidised in any way, and as a service is expected to break even. The rising cost of raw ingredients, changes in working patterns, and changes in customer behaviour, make this a persistent challenge. We value your custom and hope you can continue to support retail catering in the future.

Public Protection – data focus A new report, to be published quarterly, is designed to offer a concise overview of key trends and emerging themes in child protection and adult protection activity across the region. [The first edition, available via this link](#), is a shorter, more accessible, companion to the annual training report and is aimed at supporting reflection, learning, and conversation across services. Should you wish to read the report in full, please email: gram.cptraining@nhs.scot to request access.

NHS Scotland reproductive health and childbirth newsletter In the latest issue, [available via this link](#), we are proud to spotlight International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March. To mark the occasion the NRS Reproductive Health and Childbirth Network launched a meaningful campaign under the theme: "Every Woman Counts: In Care and In Research." Through this initiative, we are sharing inspiring contributions that highlight the people, passion and progress driving reproductive health and childbirth research and care across Scotland, amplifying a collective voice that reflects the strength and diversity of our network.

Celebrating success Congratulations to Lesley MacLeod and Karen Simpson (both Advanced Nurse Practitioners) and Dr Morag Turnbull (paediatric consultant) on having abstracts accepted for podium presentation to the International Council of Nurses Conference, taking place in Nashville in September. Their abstracts will focus on "Establishing a sustainable ANP workforce for paediatric services in a remote and rural DGH" and "ANP Led Urgent Suspected Colorectal Cancer Vetting for Moray." We are delighted they will have the opportunity to highlight the great work being undertaken for Advanced Practice in Grampian to an international audience.

Tune of the day In Christianity, this week is Holy Week; today specifically is Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. For those of you observing Easter reflections and celebrations, here's [Were You There](#), sung by Johnny Cash and The Carter Family.

If you're looking for something a little more secular, Marvin Gaye was born on this day in 1939, which is all the excuse I need to break out [I Heard It Through The Grapevine](#)

P.S. The Great British Bake-Off Musical, starring some of our wonderful colleagues, will be setting audiences alight at HMT in May, **not** the Arts Centre as I claimed yesterday. No Hollywood Handshake for me... (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