

Friday 20 February 2026

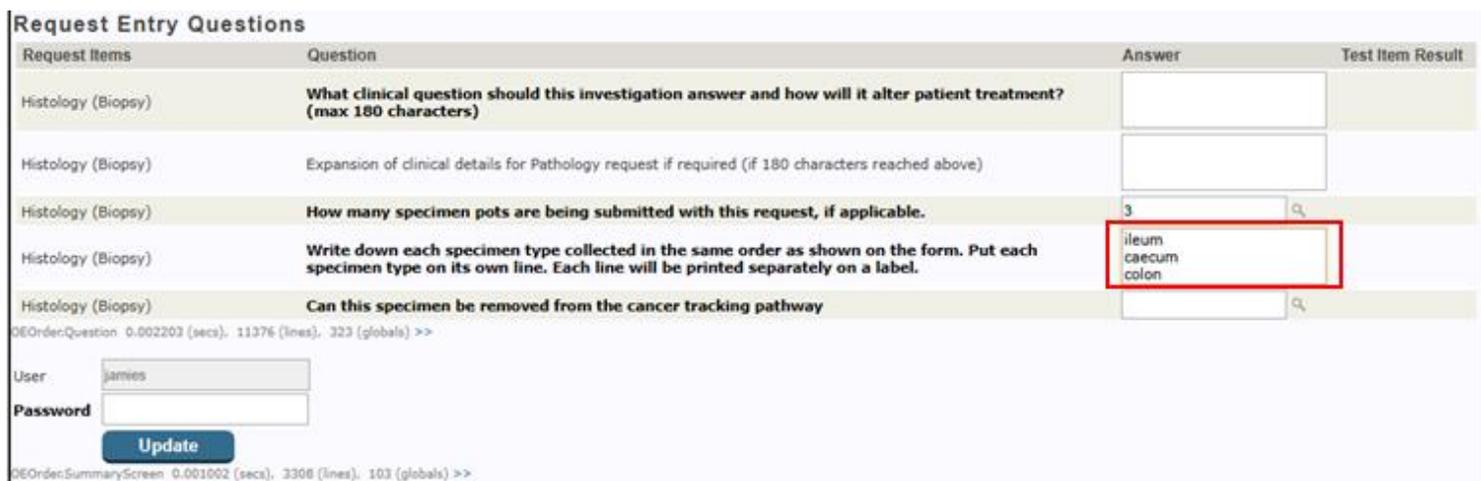
Agenda for Change inflation guarantee pay uplift A further salary increase for NHS Scotland Agenda for Change (AfC) staff has been confirmed by the Scottish Government. This is due to the inflation guarantee previously agreed as part of a two year pay settlement; [details of which you can read via this link](#).

It has been confirmed the already implemented AfC pay award needs to be adjusted by 0.15%, bringing the agreement from 4.25% to 4.40% for 2025-2026. This increase will be applied to February salaries with arrears backdated to April 2025 processed in March salaries. Further details of this uplift are [available via this link](#).

Turas Learn update Throughout next week, the Turas Learn team will be preparing for the national migration to the new Once for Scotland statutory and mandatory learning modules on 2 March 2026. Between 23-27 February (inclusive), you may notice modules updating in real time or occasional inconsistent signposting. No action is required and training can continue as normal, though layouts or links may change. These improvements support a more consistent, accessible learning experience and reduce unnecessary repetition of training. Should you experience any issues with modules please contact gram.wcd@nhs.scot

Board meeting – Chair's report Our board met yesterday; chair, Alison Evison, has prepared her usual summary of discussions, [which is available to read via this link](#).

TrakCare – ordering diagnostic cytology or histology exams If you need to submit an Order Comms request for diagnostic cytology (non-cervical) or histology (biopsy), please read all associated questions carefully. For multiple pots, please follow the format shown in the example below, using a separate line (carriage return) for each item. Please refer to image below:



Request Items	Question	Answer	Test Item Result
Histology (Biopsy)	What clinical question should this investigation answer and how will it alter patient treatment? (max 180 characters)		
Histology (Biopsy)	Expansion of clinical details for Pathology request if required (if 180 characters reached above)		
Histology (Biopsy)	How many specimen pots are being submitted with this request, if applicable.	3	
Histology (Biopsy)	Write down each specimen type collected in the same order as shown on the form. Put each specimen type on its own line. Each line will be printed separately on a label.	ileum caecum colon	
Histology (Biopsy)	Can this specimen be removed from the cancer tracking pathway		

DEOrder:Question 0.002203 (secs), 11376 (lines), 323 (globals) >>

User: jamies

Password: []

DEOrder:SummaryScreen 0.001002 (secs), 3308 (lines), 103 (globals) >>

Roadworks – Foresterhill site Essential works for The Baird Family Hospital will require changes to traffic flow on the Foresterhill site from Monday 23 to Friday 27 February 2026. The west (outgoing) side of the main ED/A&E access road will be closed during this period. Further information and a map of the works [can be found on the intranet via this link](#).

Ashgrove House/Foresterhill House & annex – heating update Heating was restored to these buildings yesterday afternoon. Colleagues based in these buildings should be aware hot running water has **not** been restored, and work is ongoing to remedy this. Thank you again to everyone for their patience and understanding.

Aberdeen 2036 – share your views Following a consultation exercise last year, Aberdeen City Council are now inviting feedback on their draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan, their Children’s Services Plan, and locality plans for north, south, and central. To see the draft plans and make your views known, [simply follow this link to the consultation website](#).

That was the week that was

Monday 16 – reminder of pre-election guidance, Scottish non-healing wounds data collection

Tuesday 17 – link to February all-staff briefing, international recruitment update

Wednesday 18 – CET meeting report, support for year-end appraisals

Thursday 19 – Reduced Working Week update, adult support and protection

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 This week we tip our hat to the groundskeeping team at RCH following their recent STAR Award presentation. During the extreme weather in early January, the team worked tirelessly from the early hours each day, clearing snow and ice across the site. Their dedication ensured the site remained as safe as possible for patients, visitors, and staff. Do 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 It’s my annual shout out to all guiding and scouting volunteers in health and social care, as Sunday is World Thinking Day/Founder’s Day. Making a promise is central to both these organisations, so Beverly Craven and [Promise Me](#) seems appropriate.

Have excellent weekends, whatever you have planned. Take care (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