

Monday 23 March 2026

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**Reminder - pre-election period guidance** There will be an election to the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 7 May. The formal pre-election period begins **this Thursday** (26 March); there is clear guidance provided to NHS bodies, to ensure they remain neutral throughout a campaign. You can read the guidance in full by [following this link](#); however, we wish to highlight the following:

- there should be even-handedness in meeting requests for factual information from individual candidates and those from different political parties
- care should be taken over announcements of decisions made by NHS Bodies to avoid accusations of political controversy or partisanship
- special care should be taken in respect of paid publicity campaigns which should not be open to criticism that they are being undertaken for party political purposes. Care should also be taken in relation to any publications planned by any NHS organisation during the pre-election period for example, pieces of research which may be open to political interpretation
- in carrying out their day-to-day work NHS Bodies should ensure that they do nothing that could reasonably be construed as politically motivated
- it is vital that staff of NHS Bodies exercise care in their day-to-day corporate activities to ensure that they do nothing that could reasonably be regarded as taking a political stance
- Public resources should not be used for party political purposes.

In addition, campaigning is not permitted on NHS premises, political posters should not be displayed in NHS premises, and election or other political meetings should not take place on NHS premises.

**Occupational Health Service – upcoming system change** Occupational Health will introduce a new referral system in the coming weeks to improve the experience for staff and managers. During the transition, the service will remain open throughout but will be working at reduced capacity, with essential work being prioritised. We will share key dates and guidance, including what to do during any downtime, in due course. Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Skip and large bin security** Following up previous guidance, NHS Assure have issued a Safety Information Message called 'HSE recommendations on safeguarding vulnerable individuals in waste management environments'. The guidance is a reminder we have a legal duty to ensure our waste is secure. It highlights that animals - and sometimes humans - may seek shelter in large waste or recycling bins. There have been near misses, but luckily no-one has been injured. All exterior bins must either be stored in a secure area or having working lid locks. If the locks are missing

or broken, please contact NHSG Waste Management Officer [neil.duncan3@nhs.scot](mailto:neil.duncan3@nhs.scot) to arrange replacement. [You can find further information on the Health & Safety Executive website via this link.](#)

**Out of date stock** Please be advised, out of date or nearly expired items can no longer be sent to the Ukraine charity. These must be disposed of at ward or department level, and not sent to Central Stores. Please remove as much packaging as possible for disposal in Mixed Recycling (clear bags) before placing the items into General Waste (black bags). If you have any questions about disposal options, please contact Waste Management Officer Neil Duncan by emailing [neil.duncan3@nhs.scot](mailto:neil.duncan3@nhs.scot)

**Technology Enabled Care Awareness Week** This event gets underway on 20 April. Aberdeen City health & social care partnership will be launching a social media campaign for the public to raise awareness and understanding of Technology Enabled Care (TEC). There will also be a series of in-person awareness sessions for professionals at sites across Aberdeen over the last two weeks of April. These sessions are a chance to see TEC in practice and understand how it can support people to live safely and independently. You'll be able to view equipment, ask questions, and talk through how TEC can be used in different care and community settings. Whether you are new to TEC or want to build on what you already know, the sessions are designed to be practical, accessible, and relevant to your day-to-day practice. [Full details and QR code for booking are available via this link](#); please contact [pemcandrew@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:pemcandrew@aberdeencity.gov.uk) with any queries.

**Tissue Viability Newsletter** [Follow this link to the latest edition](#) of the team's important news.

**Datix surgeries** The next Datix surgeries will take place tomorrow (Tuesday), between 10-10.30am and 10.30-11am. Book on to ask a question or seek advice on anything to do with Datix. Booking is via [Turas \(requires log-in\); just follow this link](#). Tomorrow too short notice? You can also book into the April sessions by following the same link.

**World Optometry Day - today** We're pleased to mark this annual event; there are currently 11 optometrists working in ARI as part of the ophthalmology service, in extended specialist roles in cataract, medical retina, glaucoma and cornea care. In addition, we have many optometrists working in the community, making up the Grampian Eye Health Network. They manage refractive error and treat eye disease in the community, within their competence, referring onwards to secondary care where required.

**Staff discounts – don't miss out** We occasionally share ticket offers in this brief, but did you know there's a whole section of the intranet dedicated to staff discounts? Just click on the Your Space button on the homepage [or follow this link](#) (networked devices only).

**Pause for thought** In what ways do you express yourself in a round-about way? What are the consequences?

**Tune of the day** Shona McLeman, part of the sexual health service, drags us away from the cover versions and back onto the straight and narrow (...ish) with her request of [Eins Zwei Drei](#) by Look Mum No Computer. This is, of course, the UK's entry for Eurovision this year; could this be a winner?

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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)