

Monday 25 May 2026

Fire, UoA building at Foresterhill Colleagues will be aware there was a fire in the Life Sciences building at Foresterhill in the early hours of Saturday morning. This is a University of Aberdeen building, and our operations were not affected. Thanks to all on-call team members who supported the response to this incident.

Protected Learning Time (PLT) – statutory and mandatory training clarification We are aware there is some confusion regarding completion of the new Once for Scotland (OfS) statutory and mandatory modules. You are **not** required to repeat modules immediately; please continue to complete training in line with your existing renewal dates. Fraud Awareness, a new national requirement, is the only exception to this. It must be completed by 2 September, if not already completed.

Remember, you can check your current compliance status, including renewal dates, via Turas Learn. This will confirm which modules are due and when. If you are unsure, please discuss with your manager. Thank you for continuing to prioritise learning that supports safe and effective practice.

ARI Orange Zone Café to become rest area From Monday 29 June 2026, the Orange Zone Café in ARI will transition from a retail café to a dedicated staff rest area. It will be available 24/7 with vending machine provision (to be installed after 29 June) and microwaves for use if required. There will no longer be a staffed café service. The catering team will continue to have responsibility for cleaning, ensuring the space is welcoming and well maintained. To recap, the following catering units are available across ARI:

- Pink Zone Cafe. Open Monday-Friday, 7.30am-2.30pm. Serving hot meals, paninis, toasties, sandwiches, salads, hot and cold drinks, and snacks.
- Aroma Cairngorm. Open Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm, and Saturday/Sunday, 8.30am-7pm. Serving hot meals, paninis, toasties, sandwiches, salads, hot and cold drinks, and snacks.
- Aroma Concourse. Open Monday-Friday, 7am-7.30pm. Serving paninis, toasties, sandwiches, salads, hot & cold drinks, and snacks
- Aroma ECC. Open Monday-Friday, 7.30am-7.30pm, and Saturday/Sunday, 9am-7.30pm. Serving paninis, toasties, sandwiches, salads, hot & cold drinks, and snacks
- Aroma Cart. Open Monday-Friday, 8.30am-3pm. Serving sandwiches, hot & cold drinks and snacks

Further water shutdown in Yellow Zone There will be a further water shutdown in the ARI Yellow Zone this evening (Monday) between 8pm and 6am. The hot and cold-water supply in this area will be fully switched off except for toilets which will remain unaffected. We apologise for any inconvenience.

National Business Services Programme Work is underway to modernise NHS Scotland core systems, used across all boards. In practice, this means the introduction of new, cloud-based, systems for HR, payroll, finance, and procurement. This is aimed at making processes simpler, more consistent, and easier to use while improving access to information, resilience, and efficiency for colleagues, suppliers, and partners. As well as membership of the national implementation group, we have set up a local oversight board and project team to provide input and governance. There will be more to follow on this, keep an eye on future briefs.

Reduced Working Week - business systems update Following updates to business systems in respect of the Reduced Working Week, we're asking managers to check their systems to ensure their team members are correctly recorded. This includes contracted hours, staff grade, and whether staff are on the correct roster. All managers need to check eESS, plus Optima rostered areas should also check Optima. Please carry out these checks no later than Friday 12 June. If corrections are required in eESS, please consult the guides in Manager Self Service. If corrections are required in Optima, forms can [be found via this intranet link](#). Be advised further checks and system reconciliation will take place in the summer.

The Robertson Family Roof Garden - update This is a treasured space at ARI, allowing patients and their relatives to spend time outside and reconnect with nature during hospital stays. The garden has been closed for a period while we explored potential changes to make it as safe as possible for all users. We are pleased to confirm improvements are scheduled to start this week (weather dependent) with a view to opening the garden during the day from 8 June onwards. It will remain closed overnight. We'll bring you further updates as the work progresses. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and we hope you will support patients and their families to enjoy the garden as it reopens.

Further improvements are also being considered, and if appropriate, these will be made at a later date.

Donations & Fundraising Policy We'd encourage everyone to read this document, which provides lots of helpful information, including the official function of NHS Grampian Charity, the different roles of external charities, and guidance on fundraising activities within hospital settings. It also provides valuable guidance on what you should do when offered a donation or financial gift by a patient or visitor. [The policy is available to read via this link](#).

Evaluation Clinics - new dates These clinics are designed for staff who are planning a service change or project and would appreciate advice on planning, implementing, writing up, or disseminating a piece of evaluation. [If you're interested, please book via this link](#). If you have any queries or if the clinic date is not convenient, please contact: CLEask@aberdeencity.gov.uk / niki.couper2@phs.scot

Pause for thought We spend much of our lives giving to others. This week, what will you give yourself to help sustain you?

As a reminder, Guided Journaling sessions take place on Thursdays between 8-8.30am; [booking is via this Turas link](#) (log-in required).

Tune of the day Regular readers will know I was raised (not always willingly) in the church of Bob Dylan. Since the great man was 85 yesterday, here's [Don't Think Twice, It's Alright](#) (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