

Daily Brief...



Monday 31 August 2026

Health & Safety prosecution As shared on Friday, following the death of a patient in our care, the Health & Safety Executive took legal action against NHS Grampian. We entered a guilty plea in relation to failures in our systems and processes and have been fined £75,250.

We recognise the impact this outcome, and the subsequent media coverage, has had on those of you who were directly involved.

Every day, you provide safe, compassionate and high-quality care to people across the region, often in challenging circumstances. While this case highlights failings for which we have accepted responsibility, it does not diminish the dedication, professionalism and commitment shown by you every day.

We remain firmly committed to patient safety and to learning from incidents when things go wrong. Following this tragic event, a comprehensive review was undertaken, and a range of improvements have been implemented to strengthen care, reduce risk and help prevent a similar event from happening again. During proceedings, our co-operation and proactive response, and our focus on improvement, was acknowledged. Nevertheless, this remains a deeply sad case and our thoughts remain with the patient's family, who experienced a profound loss and continue to grieve.

Ask Laura – August episode out now Employee Director Steven Lindsay sat down with Laura Skaife-Knight for the latest Ask Laura session, putting your questions to the Chief Executive of NHS Grampian. In this edition, Laura responds to questions on a range of topics raised by staff, including smoking at building entrances, the responsible use of artificial intelligence, support available during role changes, staff wellbeing facilities, parking concerns and plans for delivering the 2027/28 savings programme. As always, if you'd prefer to skip to a particular section, just follow the relevant links below:

[00:16 – Laura's monthly update](#)

[02:08 – Smoking at building entrances](#)

[05:30 – Artificial Intelligence and environmental considerations](#)

[07:35 – Pool vehicles list and supporting informed choices](#)

[09:56 – Support for staff affected by role changes](#)

[12:20 – 2027/28 Savings Plan: Every Penny Counts](#)

[14:00 – Staff wellbeing facilities](#)

[17:29 – Staff garden](#)

[19:08 – Poor parking and shale car park improvements](#)

[20:33 – Totem pole outside Ashgrove House](#)

If you have a question you would like to raise in a future session, please email gram.communications@nhs.scot and let us know whether you would prefer it to be asked anonymously.

Chief Executive's blog It's September tomorrow, so it's time for another blog post from Laura Skaife-Knight. This month she's reflecting on our recent Cabinet Secretary visit and iMatter action planning. [Follow this link to read her update in full.](#)

All-staff briefing – today You are invited to join colleagues at the latest all-staff briefing, taking place 11-11.30am today. [No need to book, just use this link to join.](#)

Agenda for Change non-pay reform update As colleagues will be aware, the 2023/24 AfC agreement included several non-pay elements, including a reduction in the working week and a new approach to Protected Learning Time (PLT). Two, short, surveys will soon be circulated, seeking feedback on the implementation of both these elements. The PLT survey will be directed to line managers; the Reduced Working Week survey will have a wider audience. In both cases, we encourage completion; your feedback is vital to for our learning, and particularly to assist future work on PLT.

As a reminder, the first phase of PLT work was the standardising of mandatory training modules, in a 'Once for Scotland' approach. This included the introduction of a new, counter-fraud awareness module. The deadline for completion of this module is 2 September. All other 'Once for Scotland' modules (there are 9 in total) are mandatory and should be completed as they come up for renewal.

New maternity triage phonenumber The Moray Maternity Collaborative have been working on implementing a new maternity triage telephone line for the whole of NHS Grampian; this launches tomorrow (1 September). This brings together the maternity teams from DGH and AMH to provide our population with 24/7 cover for advice for unscheduled pregnancy issues and up to 6 weeks postpartum.

The new number is 0300 131 2112. The triage line is not for healthcare professionals. Calls from GPs, community midwives, NHS 24, SAS, hospital teams, allied health professionals, and other healthcare professionals should continue to be transferred or directed to the appropriate ward, assessment area, or department using the usual professional contact numbers. Further information for staff can be found by [following this link](#).

A special mention must go to Rachael Shewan as the Project Midwife for this work - this has been the first project she has led on, and she has done such a fantastic job.

International Overdose Awareness Day Partners across Grampian are supporting International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) today with a programme of remembrance, awareness and overdose prevention activities. Led by Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, alongside Alcohol and Drugs Action, Aberdeen in Recovery and Quarriers Arrows Service, the day will remember lives lost, raise awareness of overdose prevention and highlight the support available across the region. Follow this link for more details. A new public health campaign was launched last week at the same time as our new specialist Ketamine Bladder Clinic led by the urology team. For more information and support, visit the campaign webpage: www.nhsgrampian.org/ketamine For professionals supporting people with ketamine-related harm, [resources are available via this link](#).

Pause for thought Sometimes simple is best. What might you be over complicating?

As a reminder, Guided Journaling takes place weekly, with occasional breaks for annual leave; [booking is via this Turas link](#) (log-in required).

Tune of the day A request which speaks for itself; Ian Leach from catering has requested Anti-Nowhere League and [I Hate...People.](#)

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