

Tuesday 6 October 2026

Ask Laura – October edition In the latest Ask Laura session, [available via this link](#), Employee Director Steven Lindsay puts a new set of questions from colleagues across NHS Grampian to our Chief Executive, Laura Skaife Knight. The questions cover a range of topics raised by staff, including updates since the last recording, NHS reform and the future of local services, single sex spaces guidance, and developments across our sites and services. As usual, we've included topic links below so you can go directly to the parts most relevant to you:

[00:17 Updates since the last recording – including the critical incident](#)

[01:07 Programme for Government drop-in sessions](#)

[01:44 Welcome Rabina Tindale as Interim Executive Nurse Director](#)

[02:00 Staff Pulse Survey](#)

[02:38 Guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission \(EHRC\) on single-sex spaces](#)

[05:25 NHS reform and concerns about the risks of centralisation](#)

[09:26 The future of Aberdeen Maternity Hospital and the opening of the Baird Family Hospital](#)

[13:35 Opening of the path beside the new mortuary building at Foresterhill](#)

[15:00 Smoking on NHS Grampian sites feedback](#)

If you have feedback, or a question you'd like Laura to consider in a future Ask Laura session, please email gram.communications@nhs.scot, remember to indicate if you would like your question asked anonymously.

All-staff briefing recording Thank you to everyone who joined yesterday's briefing session. A recording is available via this link for those unable to attend.

Site safety and security Our sites are large public spaces, and we want to keep them as safe as possible for you, for the people we care for, and for the wider public. We all have a role to play in this. If you see anything which gives you cause for concern, contact the site security team (if available) or report it directly to Police Scotland.

More generally, make sure you wear your staff ID clearly when on duty. Don't be afraid to challenge any unknown or unexpected visitors to your site/building/clinic/ward/etc. Don't be offended if someone asks you to identify yourself. Make sure security doors are properly closed. If there is a fault with a lock (of any kind) log a repair request with Facilities & Estates. Managers should ensure ID badges, uniforms, and any other items of NHS property are returned when someone leaves the organisation. Missing ID badges should be reported to the security team without delay.

Assessing communication support for non-English speaking patients There are different types of interpreters - in-person, audio/telephone interpreter, or Near Me - and cost varies depending on the mode of interpretation. To work out the best option, ask yourself the following:

- **How long is the appointment?**
 - Language line is charged per minute, whereas Face to Face is charged per hour and may also need travel costs covered
- **What will happen during the appointment?**
 - How complex or sensitive is the information discussed
 - Is there a need for physical examination?
 - Is the appointment related to mental health or a child protection/vulnerable adult concern?
- **Who will be attending?**
 - Is there a child attending with an adult who doesn't speak English?
 - Are there more than 2 people attending
- **Interpreter availability**
 - Face-to-face offers over 50 languages; Language Line offers over 290, making it much more flexible.

[Follow this link for more guidance](#) on which interpretation services or you can also email gram.equalitydiversity@nhs.scot

Restart a Heart campaign We are pleased to say our resuscitation team will be back at Union Square in Aberdeen, on Friday 16 October for Restart A Heart Day. Between 9am-3pm, they'll be teaching the public how to carry out CPR and use an Automated External Defibrillator. Fewer than 1 in 10 people survive an out of hospital cardiac arrest; having the confidence to carry out CPR could be the difference between life and death.

NHS Grampian Charity The charity has recently updated its application form for research grants. If you're considering applying for funding for a research project, please make sure you familiarise yourself with the new form and use the latest version when submitting your application. If you have any questions or would like support with completing your application, you can join the charity's weekly drop-in on Teams. It takes place every Thursday between 10am and 11am and there's no need to book, just click the link [available on this intranet page to join](#).

Tune of the day Butch Vig, music producer extraordinaire, was born on this day in 1967. He dominated the 90s grunge scene, working with Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins, L7, and Sonic Youth, before going on to form Garbage. Here they are, with [When I Grow Up](#) (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.dailybrief@nhs.scot