

Wednesday 8 November 2023

Chief Executive of NHS Scotland's Message Caroline Lamb has written a letter to all staff, which is attached to today's email, sharing her "deep concern for all those affected by the conflict in Israel and Gaza".

She wrote: "Feelings will understandably run high among staff and many of the people they treat and care for. We appreciate your understanding and continued professionalism at such a challenging time.

"These situations can also, unfortunately, lead to increases in harassment related to race, ethnicity or religious belief. Abuse, bullying or harassment are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. I would encourage staff to report any instances through their local reporting systems.

"I know that all our staff, including those personally affected by the conflict, continue to provide a high standard of care and contribute invaluable to Scotland's health service. For this you have my sincere thanks."

The full letter also contains links to wellbeing resources for those affected and details of how confidential advice and support can be sought.

Supported route to HNC in Healthcare Practice Are you an experienced healthcare support worker, interested in taking the first steps towards a new career as a Registered Nurse? An HNC in Healthcare Practice can equip you with the skills you need to undertake a nursing degree. We have several information sessions coming up, all on Teams, so come along and find out more. Dates below, email matthew.pye@nhs.scot to request an invite:

- Friday 17 November – 2pm
- Tuesday 21 November – 2pm
- Tuesday 28 November – 2pm
- Thursday 7 December – 2pm
- Wednesday 13 December – 2pm

NHS Grampian Charity – community grants scheme NHS Grampian Charity has opened the latest round of funding for its community grants programme and would appreciate your help in spreading the word within your local community. The programme welcomes applications from local charities and community organisations working across Grampian. Organisations can apply for up to £10,000 to deliver projects which support and enhance the health and wellbeing of the people of Grampian. More information about the Community Grants Programme is available on the charity website: [NHS Grampian Charity \(nhsgrampiancharity.com\)](https://nhsgrampiancharity.com). This funding programme is for external charities and community organisations; please do not submit applications on behalf of a hospital, ward, or service.

We Care Wellbeing Wednesday

Spaces for Listening Are you looking for some breathing space and a chance to be heard? Come to Spaces for Listening: a simple and lightly-structured process which creates a space for colleagues to come together and share their thoughts and feelings. It is confidential, there is no hierarchy, we all participate as people. It is open to all staff in Health & Social Care.

Upcoming dates and times: 22nd November 16:00-17:00 (contact Agnieszka.Stephen@nhs.scot to book); 27th November 12:00-13:00 (contact AnnSmith1@aberdeencity.gov.uk to book); and 29th November (contact Fiona.Sharples@nhs.scot to book). [Click here](#) to read more about Spaces for Listening.

Your Mental Health Matters On Tuesday 28th November 2023, Maximus is partnering with the Department for Work & Pensions to provide a day of virtual, confidential one-to-one appointments available for all staff within NHS Grampian. This service aims to provide support for anyone who may have a mental health concern (diagnosed or undiagnosed) that is impacting on performance or attendance at work. Maximus can offer dedicated support for nine months, covering things like coping strategies, practical advice and guidance.

Have a look at their website for more information and resources: [Home - Access to Work \(maximusuk.co.uk\)](https://www.maximusuk.co.uk)

iMatter Historical Team Information Notification for Managers From 17th of November 2023, historical team iMatter information i.e. Team Reports, Action Plans and Story Boards that are more than 5 years old will no longer be held on the iMatter system. If you wish to retain team information that is older than 5 years, such as Reports, Action Plans or Storyboards please download and save before 17 November 2023. This must be done in line with NHS Grampian policies and protocols for the storage and security of information and data:

Information Governance: [Pages - PoliciesandProcedures \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk)

Information Security: [Pages - PoliciesandStandards \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk)

You can contact us about iMatter at gram.imatter@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Today's request comes from Health Protection and it's a dedication for Susan Duthie as she retires from her role as Lead TB Nurse Specialist. Her colleagues want to wish her "every happiness for the adventures ahead". They've asked for Coldplay's [Adventure of a Lifetime](#). All the best Susan!

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