

Tuesday 8 September 2026

Band 5 nursing review – September update All nurses currently employed on a Band 5 contract are entitled to request a re-evaluation of their post, with a possible regrade to Band 6. There is further information and [a link to the application portal available at this link](#). Here are the latest facts and figures:

- At time of writing, we have received **803** applications. **272** are complete. Most completed applications have resulted in a regrade to Band 6.
- Applications are typically worked through in order of the **date received**. We have had significant interest in this review and ask for your patience. We are currently processing applications submitted in May 2025.
- In a bid to provide faster responses, we can 'batch' applications and run several through the review process at once. This **only** applies in areas where there have been several applications from staff who have the same manager **and** where at least one colleague has already had a successful review and regrade to Band 6. Batched applications still take time to process, so please bear with us.
- Batching panels were held during July and August, however, we have been unable to hold any matching panels due to staff absence. These will resume in October; however, these are held alongside regular job evaluation panels, therefore the number of applications we can process will be limited.
- The review is open to all nurses currently employed on a Band 5 contract by the NHS in Scotland. There is no closing date at present, and you have the full support of the organisation to participate in this review.
- If you were working in a Band 5 post from April 2023 onwards, even if you are in a Band 6 post now, you can still apply to have that post reviewed.

Well over 1300 individuals have accessed the application portal; just over half have submitted completed applications. [The short anonymous questionnaire, available via this link](#), will help us understand why applications have not been completed and what we can do to remove barriers to taking part. This is open to registered nurses, currently working at Band 5, only. Questions? We're here to help. Please contact gram.band5JE@nhs.scot with your query.

Action required: Mandatory clinical safety Turas module for staff requesting microbiology tests

All colleagues who request microbiology tests are required to complete a mandatory Microbiology Clinical Safety TURAS module 'Provision of Clinical Information'. This is in response to safety risks identified with microbiology, incidents where lab staff have been exposed to hazardous organisms, and a Health and Safety Executive investigation. Further information, including a link to the relevant training, [can be found on the intranet via this link](#).

Correction - Paediatric MTC Education Session Please note, the Paediatric MTC Education Session advertised in yesterday's brief will take place this Thursday (10 September) between **12-1pm**, and not 1-2pm as suggested. Apologies for any confusion. The topic is child protection, and the presenter is Stacey Hill. No need to book, [just use this joining link](#).

Drop in for your flu jab in Aberdeenshire From today, all Aberdeenshire vaccination clinics are open to staff flu drop-ins, making it as easy and accessible as possible for staff to receive their flu vaccination. It is worth noting that this may mean, at times, there could be a wait to be seen.

Scottish Learning Disability week – understanding People with learning disabilities can experience barriers to accessing healthcare. Understanding individual needs and taking time to listen can make a significant difference to their experience and outcomes. Develop your understanding of learning disability, communication, health inequalities, and person-centred care [by following this Turas link](#).

The toolkit resources available via the links below provide practical information when supporting people with learning disabilities in your care:

[Acute care toolkit 16: Acute medical care for people with a learning disability | RCP](#)

[Learning Disabilities Toolkit v2.pdf](#)

[Course: LD Toolkit template | RCGP Learning](#)

Reminder – introduction to British Sign Language This is an informal course enabling staff to learn basic British Sign Language and Deaf Awareness. Starting on Tuesday 22 September, it will run for 10 weeks, 7-8.30pm, in the MacGillivray conference room at AMH. Limited spaces are available and you should only sign up if you can attend a minimum of 7 sessions. [Follow this link to register](#), no later than **10 September**.

Big Data in Obstetrics & New 150-Day Metrics You are invited to 'Big Data in Obstetrics & New 150-Day Matrix' webinar on Tuesday 6 October at 12-12.55pm, hosted live on Microsoft Teams. This bitesize 'lunch and learn' webinar will welcome two highly knowledgeable guest speakers: Rachel Kearns, consultant anaesthetist at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and Ian Anderson, information services manager at NHS Research Scotland. [To register, please follow this link](#).

NHS Grampian Charity The charity has been reviewing the funding it provides to support staff wellbeing and development, considering new legal guidance as well as feedback from you. As the health board's official charity, the charity's beneficiaries are patients, and under charity law everything we do must ultimately demonstrate a benefit to patients.

As part of this review, the Staff Social Activities programme has now ended and will be replaced with a pilot micro-grants programme. This new programme is expected to open in early 2027. In the meantime, the charity continues to welcome applications for staff learning and development opportunities and for improvements to staff rest areas, where these demonstrate a clear patient benefit.

Tune of the day Our request today comes from the sexual health service team, AKA The Condominators, gearing up to take part in this weekend's Banchory Beast Race. No matter the obstacle, they've got it covered! For all of them, here's [High Hopes](#) by Panic! At The Disco.

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