

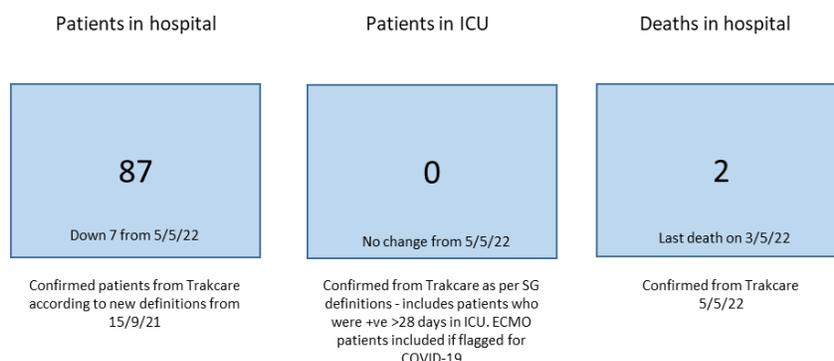
Here is the brief for Friday 6 May 2022.

**Future of this brief** Our survey on the future of this brief closed on Tuesday. A whopping 1144 of you submitted responses and we are so grateful to you for taking the time. We're still working our way through the really constructive feedback, but it is clear you value the format of one email, towards the end of the working day, with a digest of key news. With this in mind, we are going to continue to issue this brief each weekday, but with the option to step back to 2-3 times a week if this feels like the right thing to do. Friday's brief will be 'lighter' and focus on rounding up the key items of business from that week. However, there are some changes in the offing. Firstly, the name. From Monday, this will become the Daily Brief, better reflecting the breadth of content shared. Secondly, we're going to discontinue the daily data 'blue boxes', moving instead to weekly updates on the virus. Again, these will be kept under review and may become less frequent.

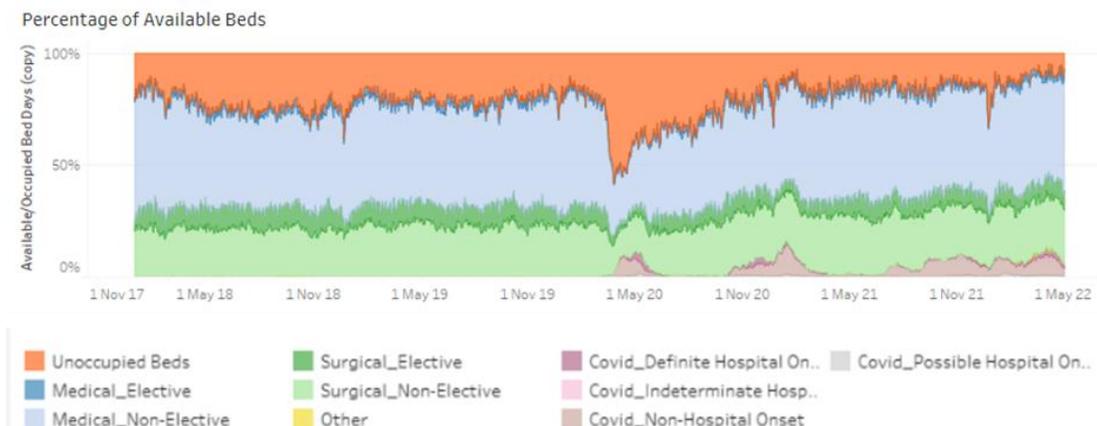
Lots of you said you'd like to see more news from across Grampian. We're really clear this brief is for everyone working in health & social care in the north-east, not just in Aberdeen. We're only as good as the information we get, so our challenge to you is to share what's happening in your area. We can't promise to include everything, and this brief is certainly not a replacement for local newsletters specific to a service, or for direct communication in your teams. We aim to provide the key facts you need and point you in the direction of more detailed information. Items should be as short as possible (150-200 words is ideal) and submitted to [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot). Remember the intranet news page is an invaluable source of information too.

Finally, a number of you said you wanted to know more about the authors of the brief, which makes sense as we write much of it in a conversational tone. I'll kick things off; I'm Emma Pettis, the Deputy Head of Corporate Communications. I can't claim to have written every brief over the last two years, but most of them are the work of my fair hand. I am ably assisted by the rest of the Corporate Communications team and a little group we call the Comms Cell. We started meeting at the beginning of COVID and are still (more or less) standing over two years on. We've got representation from HR, Acute, Public Health, the HSCPs, with a mix of clinical and non-clinical staff. Much like this brief, we started with one purpose (deciding the content of the brief) and our role has evolved to include communications advice and support and the development of messages for the organisation as a whole. From now on, we will use initials at the end of each brief, so you know who the author is.

**Daily data and the state of the virus** Here is today's local data:



This is the sixth week in a row where infection rates in Scotland have fallen – now estimated to be 1 in 30 people (1 in 25 last week). The good news is new admissions and patients in hospital have been declining overall – a situation we expect to continue whilst infections in the community continue to reduce. COVID-19 patients now make up about 4% of bed use overall, although we are continuing to operate at exceptionally high levels of occupancy overall as the ARI chart below shows.



**That was the week that was** Here's your round up of the key items shared in this week's briefs. All briefs [are available to read online here](#):

Monday 2 May – No brief issued on Public Holiday.

Tuesday 3 May – Further extension of person-centred visiting, Use of WhatsApp, Smarter Working principles.

Wednesday 4 May – Closure of NMC temporary register, We Care Wellbeing Wednesday.

Thursday 5 May – Episode 7 of Ask Caroline, update on testing & self-isolation for health & social care staff.

**STAR Awards** It's nice to round off the week with some positive news, and we have four recent winners of the STAR Award to share:

- Rebecca Thomson, a secretary at Dr Gray's Hospital, nominated for her secretarial skills and calm manner
- Ewan Maclver, ARI Training & Recruitment Officer, for his work in recruiting and looking after new starts.
- Anna Nawrocka, domestic assistant in the Pink Zone, who not only helps keep the hospital clean but also arranges a collection in support of the humanitarian effort in Ukraine.
- Jacqueline Tough, domestic supervisor at Inverurie, nominated for her work supporting teams across four geographically spread sites.

Huge congratulations to them all! If you would like to nominate a colleague or a team for a STAR award, you can either [complete the online form](#) or email [gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot)

**Tune of the day** Deirdre McIntyre picks today's tune, dedicated to all her Partnership colleagues; she's selected [Solomon Burke's Cry to Me](#) (those of us of a certain vintage will recognise this from the Dirty Dancing soundtrack).

I wish you all a good weekend, with the opportunity to take some down time. If you are working through, thank you and stay safe. The brief will return on Monday (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)