

Meeting:	NHS Grampian Board
Meeting date:	8 October 2026
Item Number:	8.2
Title:	Board and Committee Appointments
Responsible Executive:	Alison Evison, Chair
Report Author:	Drew McGowan, Interim Board Secretary

1 Purpose and recommendations

This is presented to the Board for:

- Decision

Recommendation

The Board is asked to

- Note the recent and forthcoming changes to Board membership and leadership.
- Approve the appointment of Colette Backwell as Chair of the Population Health Committee with effect from 1 February 2027.
- Approve the appointment of Colette Backwell as Chair of NHS Grampian Charity with effect from 1 February 2027.
- Approve the proposed Committee ViceChair appointments, with immediate effect.
- Approve the change in Joyce Duncan's Committee membership from the Performance Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee to the Clinical Governance Committee, with immediate effect, as an interim arrangement until the end of her term on 31 October 2026.
- Approve the proposed Committee membership arrangements set out in Appendix 1, with effect from 1 November 2026.
- Authorise the Board Chair, Clinical Governance Committee Chair and Chief Executive, as Accountable Officer, to approve the co-option of a member to the Clinical Governance Committee ahead of the December 2026 Board meeting, with the appointment to be brought back to the Board for ratification.
- Approve the proposed NHS Grampian appointments to Aberdeenshire and Moray Integration Joint Boards set out in Appendix 1, with effect from 1 November 2026.

This report relates to:

- Board Governance

This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition

- Effective

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

The Board is asked to note the recent and forthcoming changes to Board membership and leadership and approve the proposed committee chair, vice-chair and membership appointments. Delegated authority for the appointment of a co-opted member of the Clinical Governance Committee is also sought, along with proposed appointments to replace retiring NHS Grampian members from two of our Integration Joint Boards (IJBs).

2.2 Background

Section 9.2 of the Standing Orders states that the Board shall appoint the chairs of all committees.

At its meeting on 13 August 2026, the Board approved the following appointments effective from 1 October 2026:

- Ritchie Johnson as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee;
- Derick Murray as Chair of the Performance Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee; and
- Hussein Patwa as Chair of the Staff Governance Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

Alison Evison will step down as Chair of NHS Grampian at the end of her four-year term of office. Professor John Connaghan CBE has been appointed to serve as Interim Chair of NHS Grampian for a period of approximately six months from 10 October 2026. Professor Connaghan has served as Chair of NHS Lothian since August 2021 and is expected to return to his substantive NHS Lothian role at the end of the interim period.

The terms of office of Joyce Duncan and Sandy Riddell end on 31 October 2026. The terms of office of Dennis Robertson and John Tomlinson end on 31 January 2027. Ahead of the terms of these Non-Executive Board Members ending, a public appointments round has been undertaken and candidates have been recommended to the Cabinet Secretary for appointment to the Board from 1 November 2026 and 1 February 2027.

At the time of writing, an announcement has not been made. If further information becomes available prior to the Board meeting, the Board Chair will provide a verbal update. To support an orderly transition, the Board Chair has recommended Committee appointments for the incoming Non-Executive Board Members, subject to their appointment to the Board being approved by the Cabinet Secretary. As the individuals cannot be named at this stage, Appendix 1 identifies the criteria against which each proposed Committee appointment is recommended.

2.3 Assessment

Following consideration of the recent and forthcoming changes, the Board Chair recommends a number of Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and membership changes to support continuity and succession planning.

Committee Chair Appointments

The Board Chair recommends that Colette Backwell be appointed as Chair of the Population Health Committee, replacing John Tomlinson, and Chair of the NHS Grampian Charity Committee, replacing Dennis Robertson, with effect from 1 February 2027.

Committee Vice-Chair Appointments

The Board Chair also recommends the following Vice-Chair appointments, effective immediately:

- Albert Donald as Vice-Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee;
- David Blackburn as Vice-Chair of the Performance, Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee;
- Steven Lindsay as Vice-Chair of the Staff Governance Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

Committee Member Appointments

The Board Chair recommends the Board approve the committee membership arrangements set out in Appendix 1. To support continuity following the departure of Joyce Duncan and Sandy Riddell, it is proposed that the:

- Incoming Non-Executive member appointed against the workforce and culture priority criterion joins the Performance Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee and the Staff Governance Committee; and
- Incoming Non-Executive member appointed against the clinical experience priority criterion joins the Clinical Governance Committee and the Population Health Committee.

As appointments have not yet been confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary, the accompanying Committee membership schedule identifies these positions as "New Non-Executive Member" from 1 November 2026. The schedule will be updated following confirmation of appointments.

To facilitate David Blackburn's move to the Performance Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee, the Board Chair recommends that Joyce Duncan move from that Committee to the Clinical Governance Committee with immediate effect, as an interim arrangement until the end of her term on 31 October 2026.

Co-opted Committee Member

Under Section 9.7 of the Standing Orders, the Board may authorise committees to co-opt members for a period of up to one year, subject to approval by both the Board and Accountable Officer. Options for co-option to the Clinical Governance Committee are being explored to ensure appropriate membership arrangements are in place.

The Board is recommended to authorise the Board Chair, Committee Chair and Chief Executive, as Accountable Officer, to co-opt a member to the Clinical Governance Committee ahead of the Board meeting in December 2026. If delegated authority is granted, the appointment would then be brought back to the Board for ratification.

Integration Joint Board Appointments

Joyce Duncan and Sandy Riddell, who retire from the Board on 31 October 2026, also serve on the Aberdeenshire and Moray IJBs respectively. The Board Chair, as outlined in Appendix 1, recommends that the two new Non-Executive Members of the Board are appointed to fill these vacancies when they arise on 1 November 2026.

2.3.1 Quality / Patient Care

No direct impact on patient care or service delivery.

2.3.2 Workforce

No direct workforce implications.

2.3.3 Financial

No financial implications arising from the changes.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment / Management

Failure to confirm appropriate committee leadership and membership arrangements could affect committee continuity and resilience during the transition in Board membership. Approving the proposed Chair and Vice-Chair appointments in advance will support an orderly transition.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

The recommendations do not give rise to equality or health inequality impacts.

2.3.6 Other impacts

No other impacts identified.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The recommendations have been developed by the Board Chair following discussions with relevant Non-Executive members and consideration of forthcoming changes to Board membership.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

Presented by the Board Chair in accordance with Section 9 of the Standing Orders.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked to

- Note the recent and forthcoming changes to Board membership and leadership.
- Approve the appointment of Colette Backwell as Chair of the Population Health Committee with effect from 1 February 2027.
- Approve the appointment of Colette Backwell as Chair of NHS Grampian Charity with effect from 1 February 2027.

- Approve the proposed Committee Vice-Chair appointments, with immediate effect.
- Approve the change in Joyce Duncan's Committee membership from the Performance Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee to the Clinical Governance Committee, with immediate effect, as an interim arrangement until the end of her term on 31 October 2026.
- Approve the proposed Committee membership arrangements set out in Appendix 1, with effect from 1 November 2026.
- Authorise the Board Chair, Clinical Governance Committee Chair and Chief Executive, as Accountable Officer, to approve the co-option of a member to the Clinical Governance Committee ahead of the December 2026 Board meeting, with the appointment to be brought back to the Board for ratification.
- Approve the proposed NHS Grampian appointments to Aberdeenshire and Moray Integration Joint Boards set out in Appendix 1, with effect from 1 November 2026.

3 Appendix/List of appendices

The following appendix/appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 – NHS Grampian Board and Committee Appointments

Appendix 1: NHS Grampian Board and Committee Appointments (From 1 November 2026¹)

Board Committee Membership

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair	Non-Executive Members	Other Members
Audit & Risk Committee	Ritchie Johnson	Albert Donald ²	Steven Lindsay Dennis Robertson ³ Ian Yuill Derick Murray	
Clinical Governance Committee	Mark Burrell	Dennis Robertson ⁴	Hussein Patwa John Tomlinson ⁵ New Non-Executive Member ⁶	Two public representatives Co-opted committee member ⁷

¹ Appointments and changes made with effect from 1 November 2026 unless otherwise stated.

² New Vice-Chair appointment with immediate effect following approval by the Board on 8 October 2026.

³ Member until 31 January 2027.

⁴ Member until 31 January 2027.

⁵ Member until 31 January 2027.

⁶ New Non-Executive member appointed against the clinical experience priority criterion from 1 November 2026.

⁷ Proposed co-opted member, subject to delegated approval by the Board Chair, Committee Chair and Chief Executive, as Accountable Officer, and subsequent Board ratification.

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair	Non-Executive Members	Other Members
Performance, Assurance, Finance & Infrastructure Committee	Derick Murray	David Blackburn ⁸	Ritchie Johnson Kathleen Robertson New Non-Executive Member ⁹	
Population Health Committee	John Tomlinson ¹⁰	Colette Backwell	Ann Bell Ian Yuill Kathleen Robertson New Non-Executive Member ¹¹	
Staff Governance Committee	Hussein Patwa	Steven Lindsay ¹²	Albert Donald Board Chair New Non-Executive Member ¹³	

⁸ Appointed Vice-Chair with immediate effect following approval by the Board on 8 October 2026, moving from the Clinical Governance Committee.

⁹ New Non-Executive member appointed against the workforce and culture priority criterion from 1 November 2026.

¹⁰ Colette Backwell will become Chair of the Population Health Committee with effect from 1 February 2027, following Board approval on 8 October 2026.

¹¹ New Non-Executive member appointed against the clinical experience priority criterion from 1 November 2026.

¹² New Vice-Chair appointment with immediate effect following approval by the Board on 8 October 2026.

¹³ New Non-Executive member appointed against the workforce and culture priority criterion from 1 November 2026.

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair	Non-Executive Members	Other Members
Remuneration Committee	Hussein Patwa	Steven Lindsay ¹⁴	Albert Donald Board Chair New Non-Executive Member ¹⁵	

¹⁴ New Vice-Chair appointment with immediate effect following approval by the Board on 8 October 2026.

¹⁵ New Non-Executive member appointed against the workforce and culture priority criterion from 1 November 2026.

Other Bodies and Champion Roles

Body or Role	Appointment(s)
Appeals Hearings	Derick Murray Albert Donald Ritchie Johnson Ian Yuill Hussein Patwa
Area Clinical Forum	Mark Burrell, Chair
Counter Fraud Champion	Steven Lindsay
Discretionary Points Committee	Ann Bell, Chair
Environmental Sustainability Champion	Derick Murray
Grampian Area Partnership Forum	Steven Lindsay, Employee Director
Pharmacy Practice Committee	Ritchie Johnson, Chair Ian Yuill and Ann Bell, Vice-Chairs
Putting People First Champion	Colette Backwell
NHS Grampian Charity Committee	Dennis Robertson, Chair ¹⁶ Colette Backwell, Vice Chair ¹⁷ Ann Bell David Blackburn Steven Lindsay Board Chair
Whistleblowing Champion	Albert Donald

¹⁶ Member until 31 January 2027.

¹⁷ Colette Backwell will become Chair of NHS Grampian Charity with effect from 1 February 2027, following Board approval on 8 October 2026.

Integration Joint Board Appointments

IJB	Appointment(s)
Aberdeen City	Hussein Patwa David Blackburn Mark Burrell Ritchie Johnson
Aberdeenshire	Colette Backwell Steven Lindsay John Tomlinson ¹⁸ New Non-Executive Member ¹⁹ Shantini Paranjothy
Moray	Derick Murray Dennis Robertson ²⁰ New Non-Executive Member ²¹ Alex Stephen

¹⁸ Member until 31 January 2027.

¹⁹ New Non-Executive member appointed against the workforce and culture priority criterion from 1 November 2026.

²⁰ Member until 31 January 2027.

²¹ New Non-Executive member appointed against the clinical experience priority criterion from 1 November 2026.