

North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary Project Newsletter - Issue 4



Picture of the south/west corner showing progress to the pitched roof, metal sheeting and ridge flashing.

Spring 2024

Welcome to the fourth issue of the N.E. Scotland & Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary Project Newsletter. This issue includes an update on the project, engagement and staff awareness sessions.

Project Update

Work onsite is progressing. The building is really starting to take shape and make its mark on the Foresterhill skyline. The roof is nearing completion and once in a position of being wind and watertight, work on the inner partitions, mechanical electrical and plumbing will commence.

There are regular walk rounds with Infection Prevention and Control team members to ensure they are satisfied with progress and any remedial works that are required. In the background, the project team are hard at work planning for occupation and the many considerations required to make this happen.

As we move into the next phase it's lovely to be able to involve stakeholders in the softer side of the project such as the selection of artwork and fabric colours.

Police Scotland, as one of the stakeholders in the project, have been liaising with the project team about their specific requirements around IT, office space and measures that are need to ensure specific security arrangements.

To support the work of The University of Aberdeen, another of our stakeholders, the mortuary will include a modern Audio Visual arrangement to facilitate teaching. Furthermore, there is an extensive research historic museum that will be on display for student access.

Handover is now planned for winter 2024, followed by a period of commissioning before the staff move in and the building is operational in early 2025.



Picture of the north/west corner.



looking North on the lower plant roof deck



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www.nhsgrampian.org/integrated-mortuary-project

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Staff Awareness Sessions

Staff Awareness Sessions were set up for anyone interested in finding out more about the new mortuary on the Foresterhill site.

These initial sessions gave a brief introduction to the project, with a presentation talking through the plans and design of the building and an opportunity for questions.

An interactive engagement day took place at the end of April, when staff were invited to view a mock-up of the new technology system that will be in the new building, samples of the soft furnishings colours and fabrics, art from the GHAT collection and discuss the plans for the new mortuary.

Further sessions are planned, including focussed sessions for the staff who will be working in the new building.

INFORMATION



Explore the latest FAQ section of the Mortuary Project web pages, by simply scanning the QR code or [click here](#).



If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive project updates, or if you have any questions for the Project Team, please email:



gram.mortuaryproject@nhs.scot



Engagement Update

We have continued to engage with a range of stakeholders around the project, keeping staff updated on progress and involving people in discussions about plans for the new building.

The new mortuary has a dedicated area for bereaved families of babies, infants and young people. We have been working with NHS Grampian's Bereavement Midwives, alongside representatives from local charities and support groups, including MISS and SANDS, to identify what people felt was important to be considered when designing the infant area and what extras might help to make the waiting area, viewing room and courtyard as comfortable as possible.

A short questionnaire was shared through networks of local groups to gather feedback. The main points from the survey responses and the discussions highlighted key issues to be considered, including:

- Colour – neutral (but not white), calming
- Lighting – soft, dimmable
- Room environment – warm, welcoming and not clinical, cosy / not too big
- Furniture and soft furnishings – comfortable, soft seating
- Artwork – distraction, neutral
- Refreshments – facilities for people to have a tea or coffee, water
- Courtyard – water feature, bench
- Music – facility to play music/sounds
- Privacy – a private space where people feel safe to grieve

All of these points will be taken into consideration in the next steps of planning for the infant area.

To learn more about the project and get an in-depth look at the new Mortuary's location and interior plans, simply visit our website or scan the QR code provided.



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