

Daily Brief...

Thursday 15 December 2022



After a hiatus of a couple of months, and for the 16th and final staff Q&A of the year, we are pleased to confirm "Ask Caroline" returns today with a wide variety of topics addressed.

Caroline is joined by Steven Lindsay, Employee Director, who puts your questions to her on car parking, pensions, the impact of the financial crisis and more than a dozen other issues you asked about.

As Caroline states in the video, we are grateful to the people who have waited so patiently for a reply and we managed to get through a large number in this session.

Caroline is also working to provide written replies to those questions that are still outstanding over the next couple of weeks. Another Q&A will follow next month and Caroline has pledged to do a session a month next year.

As always, timestamps to specific questions are below: [02:23](#) Electric Charge point reservation @ ARI - Breast Screening Service

[04:51](#) More Electric Car Charging & time limit at Lady Helen Wood Car Park

[08:05](#) Impact of employer-contribution recycling to NHS staff affected by Pensions Tax Charges [12:56](#) HCSW Band 2/3 Review Backdating

[15:09](#) Bank working re-banding possibility?

[21:48](#) Re-opening of staff gyms - any further updates?

[25:55](#) Struggling to identify funding for training as a Paediatric Advanced Nurse Practitioner [28:52](#) Why are hospital staff still being made to wear face masks?

[32:37](#) Delayed pay in August and other months for speciality registrars and the impact on morale. [37:40](#) Impact of fuel crisis on patients and signposting advice*

[39:30](#) Flexibility from line managers for winter vaccine appointments and impact of side effects on sick time.

[45:01](#) Possibility of opt in for paper slips rather than opt out?

[49:52](#) Impact of electricity prices on patients with MND and other conditions that require powered equipment to manage.

[52:52](#) Has there been any update around the proposed superannuation contributions that was featured in the daily brief earlier in the year?

[54:15](#) Is it fair that doctors in training are paid for their lunch when 90% of staff aren't?

[1:00:06](#) Nurse bank service not recognised for long service awards

[1:01:58](#) Plans to provide more bike lockers at ARI?

*Travel advice & support for health and social care appointments is available to patients and providers is available in Grampian via Thinc. Please see <https://thinc-hub.org/> Tel: 01467 536111 email: travel@thinc-hub.org

An audio version is available to listen to on [SoundCloud](#) and a transcript of the Q&A can be found [here](#). (networked devices only).

The transcript is written exactly as spoken so it can be a little odd to read, and we apologise for any inaccuracies it contains. If you want to put your question to Caroline or give feedback email: gram.communications@nhs.scot (Please indicate if you would like your question to be anonymous).

Letter from Cabinet Secretary December 8 marked the second anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccine being administered in Scotland. To mark the occasion, a letter has been issued from the Cabinet Secretary thanking staff for their efforts over the last two years.

Humza Yousaf said: "I, and everyone in Scotland, owe you an immense and lasting debt of gratitude. Once again, staff at all levels in the NHS met the unprecedented national challenge with characteristic courage and dedication. Under intense pressure, the fortitude and determination of your teams have allowed us to continue living our lives without restriction. You have been a credit to the NHS, and the whole country, and your contributions shall not be forgotten. Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to everyone in your organisation."

The full letter is distributed along with today's brief.

NHS Grampian Fast-tracks Moray Maternity Upgrade NHS Grampian's board has approved ambitious plans to expand Moray maternity services with consultant-led obstetric services delivered at Dr Gray's Hospital, in Elgin, potentially as soon as late 2026.

The board endorsed the plan, which outlines a clear plan for the delivery of a full consultant-led service, delivered through a networked model with both boards working in partnership.

The plans, which are in response to the Scottish Government commissioned report (2021), will now be submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care for approval.

Within the plans, Moray mums will benefit from a full range of midwife and consultant-led services, including a dedicated theatre with associated equipment, available 24-hours a day for emergency obstetric use. To deliver the service a wide range of new staff will be recruited to work to the facility, including midwives, obstetric consultants and anaesthetists, and a recruitment and marketing plan has been developed which in 2023 will start attracting applicants to the North of Scotland. The plan also explains the accommodation and equipment requirements related to expanding services.

Simon Bokor-Ingram, chief officer for Moray Health and Social Care Partnership, who is leading the plans, said: "Our fast-tracked proposals envision the delivery of a contemporary, sustainable obstetric service, alongside the existing excellent midwife-led service, by 2026.

"This will bring significant benefits to Moray mums and their families and compliment services being delivered at Dr Gray's Hospital. As well as new facilities, the plan sets out the range of new midwives and other staff that will be required to deliver the service.

"A great deal of planning has gone into these proposals and I wish to thank all those who have contributed to them."

Baird and ANCHOR Works – Road reopened Leading up towards The Radiotherapy Centre beyond The Maggie's Centre entrance has been a one-way system for the last few months to allow for The ANCHOR Centre boundary wall to be built. This work has now been completed and the two-way traffic system in this area of the Foresterhill Health Campus has been reinstated.

Open University Awareness Session Are you a Healthcare Support worker? Do you want to become a Registered Nurse with an Open University BSc (Hons) in Adult, Learning Disability, Children and Young People, or Mental Health Nursing Qualification. Information sessions will be held in January. For more information, see the flyer distributed along with today's brief.

Tune of the day It's ten sleeps until Christmas, so we must mark the occasion with a modern Christmas classic, [The Darkness' Don't Let The Bells End](#) (GC).

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