

Here is the brief for Thursday 7 April 2022.

## ASK CAROLINE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE STAFF QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION



Action on mileage expenses, progress with hot food for staff, dozens of new international nursing staff joining NHS Grampian and some potential good news about regrading for band 2/3 HCSW roles are just some of the topics covered in the [latest episode of Ask Caroline](#), [our staff Q&A with Chief Executive Caroline Hiscox](#). As always, we know many people only have time to watch the sections that are most relevant to them so the time stamped question links are listed below:

[00:00](#) - Introduction

[00:35](#) - Update on expenses & fuel and mileage cap

[03:18](#) - Update on hot food for staff

[05:45](#) - Dr Matthew Newman - When will NHS Grampian start accepting work experience placements again?

[07:28](#) - Returning retired staff & pension benefits offered during the pandemic

[10:46](#) - Graduate nurses from Australia update

[15:27](#) - Access to bottled drinking water for staff on wards

[17:58](#) - Liam Buchan - As the role of the Health Care Support Worker continues to grow in clinical settings, will there be an opportunity for the banding of these roles to be reassessed? [21:14](#) - The future of research in NHS Grampian

[24:10](#) - Patient identifiable data on the shared drive vs SharePoint

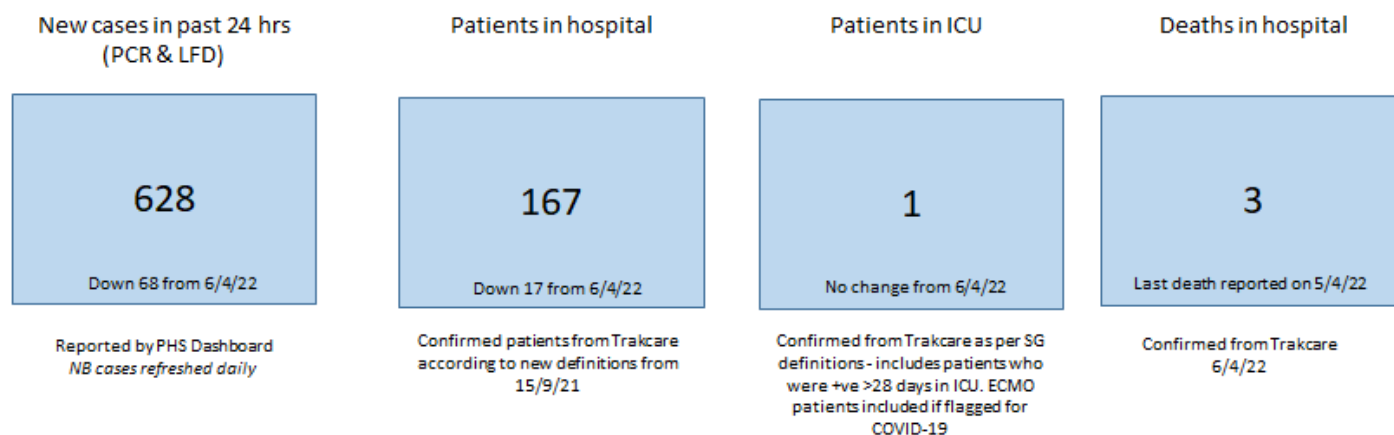
[26:10](#) - The Culture Matters Staff Survey and iMatters Staff Survey; why do we need both?

[29:21](#) - The stairlift at the Alan Downie Unit

If you want to put your question to Caroline or give feedback on these videos, please email: [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) (Please indicate if you would like your question to be anonymous).

**Vaccine trial opportunity** We are once again supporting COVID-19 vaccination trials, this time working with Moderna to trial their Omicron specific jab. This will start next week, and we are keen to recruit trial participants as quickly as possible. If you have already received 2 or 3 doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (your last injection should have been at least 90 days ago) and haven't had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, you may be eligible. All the information you need, along with contact details for the trial, is in the flyer attached to the email used to send out this brief.

**Grampian data** The local report is shown below. [The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard can be viewed here](#)



**Aberdeenshire vaccination appointments** We are currently appointing people aged 75 and over for a COVID-19 Spring booster. On Tuesday we became aware some citizens in Aberdeenshire had not been given appointments at their nearest clinic. Since then, the vaccination team have been working hard to understand the scale of the problem.

We estimate approximately 4,000 people have been given appointments at clinics other than their local centre. We have already started phoning people directly to rebook their appointments. If anyone has received an appointment at a clinic that is not closest to where they stay or is not convenient to get to, they do not need to wait for us to get in touch; they can call the national helpline on 0800 030 8013 and rearrange. Letters are being sent today to apologise and explain what they should do next. Individuals are not obliged to reschedule; if the appointment they have been given suits them, they are welcome to keep it.

There is no evidence of similar issues in Moray or Aberdeen City; we are working closely with the national appointing team to understand why this happened and how it can be avoided in future.

**Baird & ANCHOR Project Update** As previously highlighted, construction is well underway on both these projects. However, COVID-19, Brexit, and changing global regulations have resulted in supply chain issues, material shortages, price increases and labour shortages. An additional £1.9M of funding has been agreed by the board of NHS Grampian to meet these challenges. In addition, the 'bring into operation' dates have been amended, as follows:

- ANCHOR Centre - August 2023
- Baird Family Hospital - March 2024
- Demolition of AMH - August 2024

These dates will continue to be reviewed over the life of the project and will be confirmed six months before handover from our construction partners to allow for the smooth transition to bring into operation for the benefit of staff, patients, and the wider population.

**Pensions update** Here is today's update for members of the NHS Scotland pension scheme:

**Continuation of the temporary suspension of the pension scheme abatement rules for retired NHS staff** A regulation was introduced in April 2020 that suspended pension scheme rules that placed limits on the working hours and earnings of retired staff who returned to NHS employment. SPPA has confirmed that these rules will be continued to 31 October 2022. For more information please see: [NHS Circular 2022\\_02 Temporary suspension of the pension abatement for NHS staff.pdf](#)

**Chaplaincy On-Call Service w/c 11 April 2022** The healthcare chaplaincy team will be offering an adjusted on-call service, in light of current absences and vacancies, as follows:

- Monday to Friday, cover up to 6.30pm
- Saturday and Sunday, cover between 8.30am-6.30pm

These arrangements will continue indefinitely but will be reviewed weekly.

There continues to be a full Catholic priest on-call service. Should they be required at any point, please contact switchboard and ask them to alert the on-call priest.

**Tune of the day** Right, brace yourselves, as you may need tissues by the end of this one! (Aunty) Tina Macdonald from Health Records at Dr Gray's Hospital has been in touch to request '[At Last](#)' by Etta James, dedicating it to her colleagues Gary and Kerry, who will finally tie the knot this weekend. They were supposed to get married in April 2020 and well, you know the rest! Tina and all the team (along with all of us) send lots of love and luck to Gary and Kerry as they begin married life together.

I'm squeezing in a second tune, sending congratulations to all the Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, and Radiographers looking forward to tomorrow's graduation ceremony; RGU is running a series of events this week for students who completed their courses in 2020 and 2021. What else but [Kool and The Gang - Celebrate](#)?

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, 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)