

Thursday 14 November 2024

We're going through changes In response to your feedback, from next week the brief will be issued between 9-9.30am. Many of you have told us your working pattern means you aren't around at the current issue time and the end of the working day isn't the best time to take in a lot of information. You've also let us know you prefer items to be short and to the point. Please keep items for the brief to **150 words or less**. The corporate communications team are here to help with editing if required.

The NHS Scotland staff governance standard requires the organisation to provide accurate, consistent, and timely information about the organisation. As employees, we are expected to keep up to date with all developments affecting the organisation. We'd encourage you to share the brief with colleagues who may not see it.

Band 5 nursing review All Band 5 nurses in NHS Scotland are entitled to request a review of their post with the potential to be re-banded as a Band 6. This is part of the 2023/24 Agenda for Change agreement and is fully supported here in Grampian. The review request is made via an online portal; if you want to read the application questions and guidance notes to prepare your request, you can do this on the Scottish Terms & Conditions Committee website: [Agenda for Change Review | Scottish Terms and Conditions Committee](#). You can download the form as a Word document. We'd encourage anyone applying to complete this, then paste your answers into the online form, to provide you with a back-up copy. Please note, any boxes left blank when submitting an application will be recorded as 'No'. If your answer to a question is 'yes', you should include supporting evidence.

Urgent appeal for job evaluation matchers Job matching is the process of evaluating Agenda for Change (AfC) job descriptions. It's a vital role which ensures we have fair and consistent grading and job descriptions for all AfC colleagues. We need to increase our current pool of available matchers, especially to meet the needs of the Band 5 nursing review especially among staff side and nursing colleagues, though all recruits from all AfC disciplines and band/grades are welcomed. If this is a role you wish to be involved in, we are providing training to enable this on 3 and 4 February 2025.

Once trained, you must commit to attending at least two job matching panels a year and participate in panels for review of Band 5 nurses. To find out more about job matching and our two-day training course in the Suttie Centre, Foresterhill Campus, email Pamela Brown at pamela.brown4@nhs.scot. **If spaces for the training are oversubscribed, staff side and nursing colleagues will be given priority.**

Applications are welcome from those working on the bank to participate in panels for the review of Band 5 nurses; there may be financial backfill arrangements in place for clinical colleagues involved in this specific review. Should you wish to discuss the release of staff to undertake this process please also contact Pamela Brown in the first instance.

Medical Director's annual report We are pleased to present, for the first time, a report from our Medical Director, Prof Nick Fluck. The report, [available to read here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only), covers medical staffing across all sectors, education and training, professional regulation, and research.

Annual Review – letter from Scottish Government Following our annual review, held last month in Elgin, we have received a letter from Maree Todd, minister for social care, mental wellbeing, and sport, who led the review. [You can read the letter via this link](#) or by visiting nhsgrampian.org/annualreview

Numeracy course at SCQF Level 5 If you are a healthcare support worker keen to undertake nursing training, but you don't have a maths qualification, NESCol will be offering a maths course in early 2025. Classes will take place at the Suttie Centre, and the course will run for 12 weeks. Places are only available to healthcare support workers in substantive posts **and** living in Aberdeen City (this is a condition of the funding for this course).

There is no study time for this course; you must have the support of your line manager to ensure you are not rostered to work during class time. Interested? Contact gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot to find out more.

RACH trials new technology Innovative work at RACH, trialling intelligent bedside cabinets, which store medicines securely and alerts patients when doses are due, will be featured on both STV and BBC Scotland news this evening. There's more information here: [NHS Grampian trials world-first tech for patients](#) and you can watch the bulletins at 6pm and 6.30pm respectively.

Staff Equalities Network – spotlight session, Wednesday 20 November The next meeting of the staff equalities network will take place on Wednesday 20 November, with a focus on 'why inclusive workplaces matter'. The guest speaker will be Hussein Patwa, a non-executive member of our board. [Helpful background information for this session is available here](#), to request the joining information, please email gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot

World Diabetes Day This annual awareness event takes place today, as research is published on the spread of the condition: [More than 800 million people around the world have diabetes, study finds | Diabetes | The Guardian](#). We have our own dedicated diabetes website in Grampian, with information for those with diabetes and healthcare professionals alike. You can check it out here: [Diabetes in Grampian – Linking Learning & Living with Diabetes](#)

Special Diwali menu – tomorrow! A reminder we will be offering a special menu to mark Diwali in the Orange Zone cafe at ARI from 11.30am tomorrow – 3 courses for £6.

Tune of the day Faye Tozer – one fifth of Steps – celebrates her birthday today and that's all the excuse I need to make [Deeper Shade Of Blue](#) the tune of the day (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