

Friday 20 December 2024

**Ask Adam – chief executive Q&A** The final ‘Ask Adam’ of 2024 is available to view here: [Ask Adam Staff Q&A - Dec 24](#). As always, we appreciate most people like to dip into the questions of interest to them, so we have included time stamps below to each question to allow you to do so.

[01:01](#) Tackling Ambulance Stacking & Hospital Pressures: What's the Plan?

[06:39](#) Fire Alarm Testing Disruption in Hospitals

[08:37](#) Ensuring Hospital Security: External Door Access & Safety

[10:37](#) What's Happening with the Trickle App?

[12:20](#) Uniform Policy: Why It's Crucial for Infection Control

[15:36](#) Electric Car Scheme: What's the Latest Update?

[17:36](#) Parking Issues at Lady Helen Car Park: What's Being Done?

[20:31](#) Leadership Changes & Management Stability: What's Going On?

[26:01](#) Protected Learning Time (PLT): Key Updates for NHS Staff

[31:50](#) Reflections on system pressures, change and the impact on colleagues

Thank you to everyone who has submitted questions for these throughout the year; Ask Adam will return in 2025.

**‘Flu - a growing challenge** As of 18 December, there were 46 people in our hospitals with ‘flu; more than treble the number seen the week before. In the community, GP consultations for ‘flu-like illnesses increased four-fold in the week ending 8 December. These figures are being replicated across Scotland and across the UK. It’s never been more important to get your free ‘flu (and COVID, if you are eligible) vaccine. For colleagues in ARI, there is a drop-in vaccination clinic in the ED fracture clinic today, 9.30am-4pm. More broadly, all Grampian vaccination clinics (except Airyhall and Bridge of Don) are offering drop-ins for health and social care staff. Details on centre locations and opening hours are available here: [Centres | Vax Grampian](#). Please note the clinics will be closed for the Christmas/New Year public holidays.

**MS Forms update – syncing with Excel** There will be an update next month (13 January) to MS Forms which will affect how responses are synced to Excel. The potential implication of this is responses may still be collected in the Form, but they may not be synced to the worksheet in Excel. Please check your MS Forms to ensure they will continue to function normally by following this guidance: [Check and update your Forms for syncing to Excel](#)

**Research & Development (R&D) strategy delivery workshop** Delivery of our R&D strategy 2024-29 is being progressed by six Short Life Working Groups (SLWGs), one of these jointly with Robert Gordon University (RGU) and the University of Aberdeen. These SLWGs were formed on 25 June in the first delivery workshop at the Suttie Centre. These SLWGs presented their findings at the second delivery workshop held on Tuesday at RGU, attended by 63 staff and stakeholders. Anyone interested in

receiving a copy of the slides can contact [gram.randd@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.randd@nhs.scot) That's also the address to contact if you want to attend the third and final workshop, on 4 March 2025, at ONE BioHub, Foresterhill.

### **That was the week that was:**

Monday 16 – winter infection prevention – toolbox talk, winter support guide

Tuesday 17 – Director of People & Culture to leave organisation, Realistic Medicine newsletter

Wednesday 18 – appointment of new Medical Director, launch of REACH awards

Thursday 19 – December pay date, supporting patients with mouth care/oral hygiene

[All briefs are stored online, just click this link](#) or visit Working with Us>HR Portal>NHSG Staff Daily Briefs on the NHS Grampian website.

**STAR Award** It's our final STAR Award announcement of 2024! Congratulations go to Billy Geddes, biomedical support worker at DGH; Billy was nominated thanks to his quick thinking and proactive approach in enacting a contingency plan. This ensured disruption was minimal and excellent patient care was maintained throughout. If you want to nominate a colleague or team for a STAR Award, please use this form: [4866 STAR Awards v2](#)

**Tune of the day** I've got a list longer than Father Christmas today, so without further ado... Keith Swanson, (senior pharmacy technician, homecare services) retires today, after 44 years with the NHS. Along with wife Michelle, also a pharmacist who retired earlier this year, they have contributed more than 70 years' service! Colleagues say Keith will be very much missed and they wish both him and Michelle a happy and healthy retirement. For them, [Adventure Of A Lifetime](#) by Coldplay.

Caroline Crighton has asked for [Driving Home for Christmas](#) dedicated to all her colleagues at the dental school.

Fiona McKenzie and her merry band of retail catering supervisors have asked for The Pogues & Kirsty McColl and [Fairytale of New York](#), for all the great staff in our retail catering outlets, and for all their customers (This is the original version of this song, with the original lyrics, for info).

Louise Robertson, at the Huntly Vaccination Centre, hits the big 6-0 tomorrow; her colleagues have requested [Don't Stop Me Now](#) to mark the occasion.

This isn't technically a Christmas song at all but [December by David Gray](#) is going out to Amy Whyte (obstetric sonographer at AMH) in recognition of her **two** STAR award nominations.

For some of you, today will be your last day at work ahead of next week's festivities. Enjoy your break, stay out of your inbox, and remember, all things in moderation (including moderation). For everyone else, there will be briefs on Monday and Tuesday next week, I'll see you then (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)