

Wednesday 24 July 2024

Digital pause – an update At the beginning of May, we announced an immediate pause in the purchase or development of any new digital solutions (subject to limited exceptions). We want to thank you for your support and understanding as ‘check and challenge’ processes have been implemented to cut spending on digital products and to support prioritisation.

Since the pause was introduced, we have had 25 requests for digital support or procurement with contract values of more than £1m. Through this work we have identified some breaches of both information governance and digital security in relation to procurement of digital solutions. We have now introduced new mechanisms to ensure compliance. We have also started work on a central record of all digital contracts and systems. This allows us to manage and support renewal and to understand whether digital solutions are required. In addition, we have been undertaking work to support the mechanism for requesting and prioritising digital services going forward.

The new ‘Digital Board’ will launch in September with a robust assurance and governance mechanism and committees underneath it. This will be the **only** mechanism for requesting and approving digital procurement, development, or prioritisation. There will be more information on this prior to the launch.

The digital pause will remain in place until 31 October. If you have any questions or comments, please contact gram.chiefdigitalofficer@nhs.scot

Do you know who you're talking to? Do not share any information (either in-person or over the phone/by email) if you are not sure who you are speaking to. It is ok to pause and query someone's identity; genuine callers will not object to you taking the time to confirm. If you're still unsure, end the call and check. It's better to ring someone back than to disclose information in error.

ICYMI - Band 3 upskilling - ARI A series of upskilling sessions have been arranged for Band 3 staff, working in clinical areas, taking place in ARI. These will run right through July and August. Full details of the [programme and how to book are available here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

Health Protection summer newsletter The latest newsletter from the health protection team is [available to read here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). This issue has lots of helpful advice on staying safe at home and abroad, including dealing with animal bites and hand hygiene at petting zoos and open farms.

Sewing room team reduce, reuse, and recycle their way to a Green Star award Well done to the sewing room team on their recent Green Star award win! They use techniques like heat sealing small holes in sheets and bedding, sewing buttons back onto pyjamas, or fixing pockets and hems. The five-strong sewing team tear old sheets into strips to wrap bundles of new uniforms into batches for collection, make drain bags for chemo patients, and chop up materials to make rags for use by other

estates teams. If services are facing a costly bill to replace specialist clothing or covers, materials are sent to the sewing team to see if they can fix them first. The team even repair the linen skips used all over the organisation in the movement of clean and dirty linen. They also ensure all NHS Scotland uniform is fitted properly. We are one of the few NHS boards in Scotland to benefit from having a sewing room and we are so grateful for everything they do!

The Green Star awards recognise individuals and teams doing their bit to make our organisation more sustainable. To make a nomination, just follow this link: [4866 Green Star Awards \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com/4866)

Wellbeing, culture, and development Wednesday

- **Coaching Skills for Managers - time is running out!** Is it worth applying for this course? 96% of past participants say it is! One of them said: "I felt that I grew in confidence to use coaching (...), which has led to much better conversations with staff. Empowering them to find solutions feels so much more positive". If you want to adopt coaching skills to have more effective conversations in your team, [apply via this link by 9 August](#).
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing** Working in partnership with Public Health, the Wellbeing, Culture and Development team are reviewing the current mental health and wellbeing learning and development offer. Please help us shape the programmes we offer by completing this short questionnaire, [either via this link](#) or scanning the QR code below:



- **iMatter action planning – 12 noon deadline, 19 August** We are now halfway through the iMatter action planning period. How are you and your team getting on with yours? Action planning is an opportunity to keep your team discussions going on what matters most to your team, what is working well that you want to build on and improve. You can book onto training sessions to [support you with action planning via Turas](#) (log-in required) or contact gram.imatter@nhs.scot with your queries.

Tune of the day For today's request, it is over to speech and language therapist, Emily Christie:

"This request is on behalf of the whole community speech and language team in Aberdeen for Margaret Mason, speech and language therapy assistant with us since 2007, and retiring this week. Margaret has been such an integral part of the team for so long that it's hard to imagine our team without her. She's been 'Mama Mags' to many of us and has taken many an SLT who is new to the city or the team under her wing. There are so many things we'll miss about Margaret... Margaret can always be counted on to find a song to suit any occasion and to find something to say to fill a silence. Margaret always comes in

to work smiling and with kind words for those around her. No matter how stressful a day you're having, the sight of Margaret twerking past your door to collect a resource never failed to put a smile on your face! We'll all miss Margaret but do hope she'll keep in touch...at the very least with pics of her lunch and tea in the group chat!"

The song they've asked for? [Puppy Love by Donny Osmond](#) (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