

Tuesday 4 February 2025

**Disclosure Scotland Act – changes effective from 1 April 2025** This act will come into effect on 1 April 2025. It will make it mandatory for employees to become Members of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme if they are in a ‘regulated’ role. **Advice from Disclosure Scotland is that this will now include roles with any form of patient contact, face-to-face or verbal, as part of their normal duties.** These roles did not previously qualify for PVG as they normally fell under a Standard Disclosure. Employers can be prosecuted if they employ someone in a regulated role who is not a Member of the PVG Scheme.

There will also be an end to lifetime membership of the scheme; instead, membership will require to be renewed every 5 years.

The recruitment team will be working closely with managers over the coming weeks and months to identify those staff who fall into the regulated role category and who are now required to become Members of the PVG Scheme. You can read more about the upcoming changes here: [Changes to our services - Disclosure Scotland](#)

**Contacting Information Governance** Apologies, there was a typo in the email address for information governance shared yesterday; the correct address is [gram.infogovernance@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.infogovernance@nhs.scot)

**Graduate apprenticeships 2025** An exciting personal development opportunity has arisen for appropriate staff to apply to study for a 4-year undergraduate degree programme at Robert Gordon University. The Graduate Apprenticeship Programme allows candidates to study whilst continuing to work in their existing, substantive NHS Grampian role. Courses begin in September 2025, are fully funded, and include cybersecurity, data science, and construction and the built environment. Further information, including a link to the application form, [is available on the intranet here](#) (networked devices only). For informal queries, please contact Douglas Andrew on Exts 67304 or 50227. The deadline for applications is 4.30pm on Friday 7 March.

**Refreshed health and transport action plan (HTAP)** A refreshed HTAP for Grampian region has been launched, building on over 15 years of partnership between key health and transport partners in the north-east. The plan supports co-ordination between transport providers and health and social care services, as they seek to improve health and transport services, align strategies and improve health outcomes across the NHS Grampian area. HTAP Partners include NHS Grampian, Nestrans, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Councils, the three local health & social care partnerships, the third sector, and commercial transport operators. We remain the only Scottish health board to have such an arrangement in place with all key stakeholders engaged. You can read the HTAP for yourself here: [Health-Transport-Action-Plan-2024-2029.pdf](#)

**Gordon Aikman scholarship** MND Scotland and the Scottish Government are making available up to £50,000 for the Gordon Aikman Scholarship scheme. The deadline for outline applications, for projects starting in 2025/26, is 31 March.

Launched in 2017 in honour of the late Gordon Aikman, these scholarships are designed to drive service improvement for people affected by motor neuron disease (MND) in Scotland by improving the care or quality of life of people with MND or their family/carers. Applications are invited for projects that identify a current need for people with, or affected by, MND and propose a solution.

Clinical researchers, healthcare workers, and allied health professionals in Scotland are eligible to apply. This would include, but is not limited to, doctors, specialist MND nurses, speech and language therapists, respiratory physiotherapists, palliative care therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, dieticians and pharmacists. To find out more, visit the MND Scotland website: [Gordon Aikman Scholarship | MND Scotland](#)

**Celebrating World Hijab Day** (by Azeezat Ogunbadejo, Research Nurse) I am using this medium to celebrate World Hijab Day with my fellow Muslim colleagues and to create awareness of the use of Hijab. Hijab is a head covering worn by Muslim women, as part of our dress code. Muslim women around the world celebrated World Hijab Day on Saturday (1 February). Thanks to the NHS for embracing our religion and the use of Hijab. More information is available here: [Our story - World Hijab Day](#)

**Tune of the day** Kevin Wasserman (AKA Noodles), the lead guitarist of The Offspring, celebrates his birthday today, so that's as good a reason as any to [Let The Bad Times Roll](#) (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)