

Friday 22 December 2023

Message from Caroline Lamb, Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and Director General for Health & Social Care, Scottish Government:

Dear colleagues,

I want to take this opportunity to share my deepest thanks and appreciation to all those who work and volunteer across health and care, for your hard work and dedication throughout 2023.

For many of you, the festive period will be a time to take a break, but not for all. I know that many of you will be working on public holidays in the coming weeks, sacrificing time with family and friends for the good of others. I thank you for your dedication and commitment over this period.

The past year has presented many challenges, as well as demonstrating huge achievements. You have continued to show why you are the heart of our health and care services, demonstrating your commitment, skill, and compassion, and providing people across all our communities with the best quality of care.

Throughout the year, I have enjoyed meeting with and listening to colleagues across many services. I have once again been hugely struck by your passion, and your ability to innovate and improve services, often under considerable pressure. As we move into the festive period, I would like to thank you all again, and to wish you all the very best for the holiday period and for the New Year.

Free tv on bedside units Spark TSL (formerly Hospedia) have confirmed tv viewing will be free on all bedside units on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and again from 11pm on New Year's Eve, right through New Year's Day. No action is required; the free tv switch will happen automatically.

That was the week that was Here's your run through of the key items we shared this week:

Monday 18 - site security reminder, introduction of additional vacancy controls.

Tuesday 19 - week in review – waiting lists, festive bus timetables and free bus transport on weekends in January.

Wednesday 20 – NHS Scotland supporting work/life balance policies – where to find them, cyber security and phishing warning

Thursday 21 – Safe Transfer of Patients – feedback opportunities, blood donation call from SNBTS

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STAR Award A huge well done to Laura Melvin, senior therapeutic radiographer, on her STAR award win. Laura was nominated after she temporarily covered review clinics due to staff shortage and ensured all patients felt listened to, were given a little TLC, and medications were promptly organised. Laura is also the first recipient of the extra Christmas goodies, courtesy of M&S Simply Food in ARI, thanks once again to them. To make a STAR award nomination, simply [complete the online nomination form](#), or email the details of the person/team you want to nominate to gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot.

Tune of the day If this is not the time of year for you, we start with some non-festive tunes. Sue Danby is requesting [Don't Stop Believin'](#) by Journey for all the team at RACH as they start their MAGNET journey (see yesterday's brief for more info). Secondly, Tommy Shaw, assistant psychologist in CAMHS at the Rowan Centre is marking his final day with NHS Grampian. He's asked for [End of the Road](#) by Boyz II Men, dedicated to all his colleagues at the centre.

If you are feeling festive, let me present you with a buffet of tunes/fun stuff:

One of my all-time favourites, [The Waitresses and Christmas Wrapping](#)

The choir of King's College (recorded in 2017) with [O Holy Night](#)

[Joni Mitchell's River](#). Just perfect.

And finally, how about [Stormzy reading The Night Before Christmas](#)? (he does go off on a tangent in the middle, hilariously)

Briefs will be issued Wednesday-Friday next week with my corporate comms colleagues at the helm. As this is my last brief for 2023, I want to say a huge thank you to all of you for reading. I'm grateful for every item you've suggested, every question you've posed, every tune you've requested. Have yourselves a merry little Christmas (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