

Here is the brief for Thursday 5 May 2022.

ASK CAROLINE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE STAFF QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION



After a three-week hiatus, today sees the return of the Ask Caroline staff Q&A video series. [In the latest episode Chief Executive Caroline Hiscox](#) addresses the recent positive news regarding mileage expenses, band 2/3 HCSW roles, new international nursing staff, resumption of face-to-face support groups, enhanced rates of pay for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and much more.

We had a couple of technical issues with Microsoft Teams during this session unfortunately. Caroline and Mike switch sides of the screen throughout this video which is a Microsoft bug introduced in a recent update and outwith our control unfortunately. Hopefully it will be resolved soon, and a disconnection brings the video to a slightly earlier end! Hopefully you still find the video useful.

As always, we also understand that many people only have time to see the bits that are most relevant to them, so we've included the time-stamped question links below:

[00:00](#) Introduction

[00:45](#) Update on mileage expenses

[04:08](#) Update on international nursing staff

[05:06](#) Update on work experience placements (For those who are receiving informal enquiries about work experience the team would be delighted to hear from you or interested parties at gram.workexperience@nhs.scot)

[06:26](#) Resumption of face-to-face support groups (Amanda Copeland)

[09:30](#) Reviewing the duties of band 2/3 HCSWs

[13:08](#) Enhanced rates of pay for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

[13:41](#) Working from home and lack of laptops

[17:22](#) Do you think NHS Grampian is "family friendly"?

[22:02](#) Why it is so difficult to transfer from a vaccinator post to the Bank? (Ann Marie Rennie)

We are still working our way through the feedback received from the recent survey on "Ask Caroline" & "In Conversation" but one thing a number of people are keen to see is an audio version ([linked on soundcloud here](#)) and a transcript of the videos.

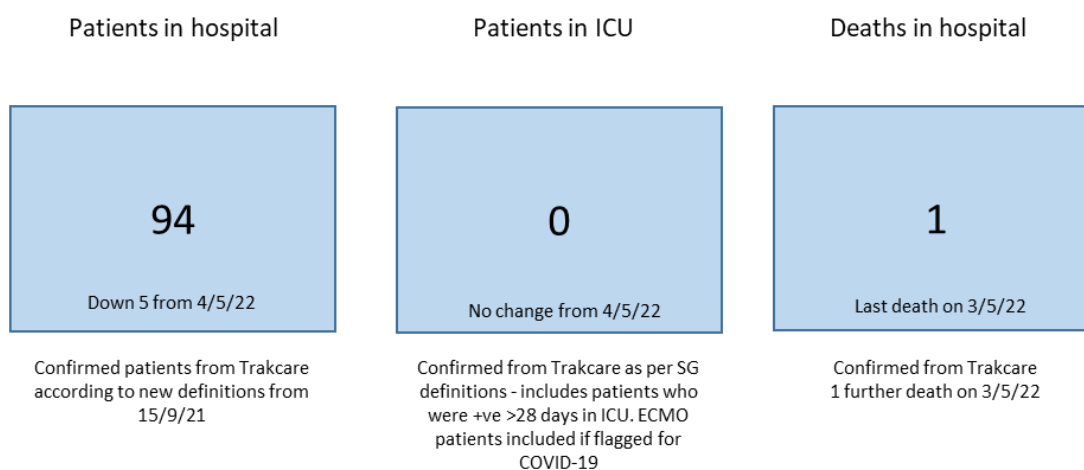
We have tried one today [available here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). It is written as spoken so it can be odd to read and we apologise for any inaccuracies it contains. Unfortunately, due to the speed at which we publish the videos, providing something more accurate is challenging but we hope it is useful! If you'd like to ask Caroline a question or provide feedback, send an email to gram.communications@nhs.scot (Please indicate if you would like your question to be anonymous).

COVID-19 testing & self-isolation for health & social care staff We have received updated guidance on the process for testing & self-isolation for health & social care staff. If your role does NOT bring you into direct contact with patients/clients, then you should follow the same 'Stay at Home' advice given to the general public if you test positive on a Lateral Flow Device without symptoms and/or develop respiratory symptoms, remembering to inform your line manager of your situation. The full guidance for staff in this group [is available on the NHS Inform website](#).

If your role brings you into direct contact with patients/clients – and this could include (for example) ward receptionists and porters, as well as clinical staff – the testing and self-isolation flowchart has been updated. It has been attached to the email used to send out this brief [and is also available to view here](#). Please follow this flowchart from today and discard any previous versions you may have.

If you have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, you no longer need a PCR test - you should take an LFD test. The staff PCR testing service will no longer be available. LFD test kits remain available to all members of staff, regardless of your role. If you have not yet joined the scheme, [you can register here](#).

Grampian data The local update is shown below. [The PHS daily dashboard can be viewed here](#).



Digital Health & Care Leadership Programme Recruitment is underway for the new cohort of this programme. It is open to employees of NHS Scotland, along with social care, housing, and the Third Sector. Applications are due by 1 July; the programme will begin in September 2022. [More information is available here](#).

We Care Newsletter- May Edition The latest edition of the We Care newsletter is now available. It has been attached to the email used to send out this brief and [is also available online here](#). If preferred, you can join the mailing list to have it sent to you directly – just email gram.wecare@nhs.scot to request this. The newsletter will now be published every other month, with the next edition in July.

Tune of the day Many of you will have come across James Montague during the course of his work with the Safer Workplaces team. James finishes up with the team tomorrow and they've asked for a dedication for him. I've plumped for [Safety Dance by Men Without Hats](#).

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