

Here is the brief for Thursday January 13 2022.

## ASK CAROLINE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE STAFF QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION



Last week we asked for your questions for our Chief Executive Prof Caroline Hiscox and we've been delighted with your response. From the intense pressure across health and social care, staff retention and recruitment and the perennial issue of bed shortages, there was a good variety of subjects.

We caught up with Caroline yesterday to put your questions to her in a team's Q&A session with Mike McKenzie from Corporate Communications.

Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/UfYEj8doReo>

As Caroline mentions in the video, she would rather be out meeting people face to face but felt, particularly at the moment, that this is one way she could make herself as accessible as possible to staff across the system.

The video is quite long as we want to make sure that we got through as many questions as possible but we appreciate people may not have time to watch it all at the moment so we have put links to each questions below so you can dip into the parts most of interest to you.

If you want to put your question to Caroline, give feedback or suggestions, please email: [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) (Please also indicate if you would like your question to be anonymous)

[00:00](#) Introduction

[03:26](#) FFP2, FFP3 Masks for all staff?

[05:48](#) Bed Shortages?

[09:06](#) HCSW Bank Usage?

[11:43](#) Intense Pressure being felt across the system and what needs to be done?

[15:51](#) Extra Staff Support?

[18:39](#) Action on staff retention and recruitment?

[22:45](#) More HCSW via Health and Care Visa Scheme?

[25:55](#) Sleep, decompression and relaxation at the moment?

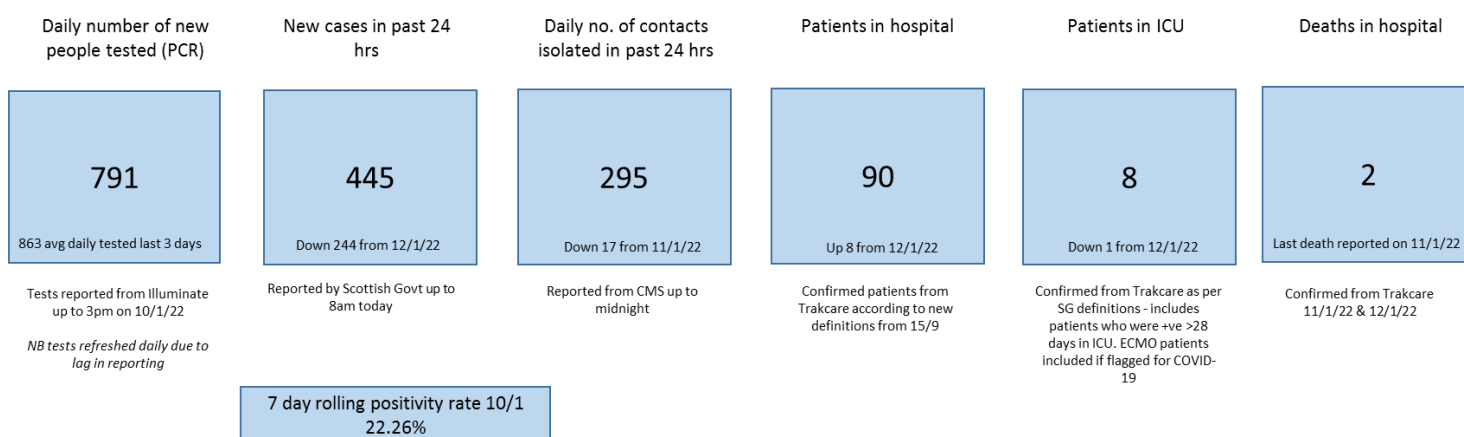
**Situation update** Right now, across health and social care things are exceptionally tough. Nationally, there is mild optimism that omicron transmission is levelling off. Locally here in Grampian, there are signs of hope but we are slightly behind the national trajectory.

In the last week, the number of Covid-19 patients in NHS Grampian hospitals —increased by 32% including a 74% rise of patients in intensive care. Staff absence is still a real challenge, especially in care and social settings. These omicron difficulties continue on top of usual winter pressures, which can be testing on their own at the best of times.

It is vital that we continue to do the right things individually because collectively it really is making a difference. One of the most important things to do is keep registering your lateral flow results - this is the best way for us to have more confidence that infection rates really are reducing.

When the facts change, we change with them. Be assured that our Omicron Plan is poised and ready to be escalated if any of these trigger points become unmanageable. For now, we continue to keep a very close eye on the data.

**Grampian data** Here is the local Grampian data update for today.



A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

**Essential skills for Cycling & Driving online training – Jan and Feb sessions** In November, we delivered 2 Essential Skills for Cycling and Driving online training sessions and received excellent feedback so we are back with more sessions in January and February. This training is delivered by Andrew Abbess from Stirling Cycle Training. He is one of Cycling Scotland's freelance tutors. The training is aimed at both cyclists and drivers to improve safety around vulnerable road users. There is no formal refresher training for driving theory or for cyclists yet the Highway Code is always changing – at the end of this month it will be changing again! That's why this training is so important. At NHS Grampian, the health and safety of our staff, visitors and patients is our priority therefore we are offering this FREE training to NHS Grampian Staff. Whether you are a driver or cyclist or both, this training is designed to help you put your safety and that of other road user's FIRST.

We had fantastic feedback from staff who attended the November sessions, cyclists and drivers alike. Of the attendees who gave feedback, 96.6% of respondents said they found the training useful or very useful and 89.6% of respondents found the training enjoyable or very enjoyable. Andrew has also had **excellent feedback from driving instructors** who have attended the training and some have said they have learnt from it and have changed their lesson plans.

To register for the training, please complete one of the forms below:

- [Click here to register for Jan 18th morning session 11.00-12.00](#)
- [Click here to register for Jan 18th lunchtime session 13.00-14.00 \(recorded\)](#)
- [Click here to register for Feb 22nd lunchtime session 13.00-14.00](#)
- [Click here to register for Feb 22nd afternoon session 14.30-15.30](#)

If you are interested but can't make these sessions please email [Katrina.Schofield@nhs.scot](mailto:Katrina.Schofield@nhs.scot) as there may be future sessions.

**Tune of the day** Today Hannah McKay, from the Newburn Health Centre picked our song. She opted for Chumbawamba's 1997 hit [Tubthumping](#).

Hannah said: "While I wouldn't condone the heavy drinking in the song, I think the lyrics are very apt in that for almost 2 years now we have had so much thrown at us by Covid and all that it entails, but no matter what it is that has knocked us down we have gotten up again and carried on.

"It also reflects the wonderful, positive attitude I have seen within not only our own team here at Newburn Health Care but throughout the NHS that Covid is never going to keep us down."

We're always on the look out for your suggestions of a great song to end the day (or start it, depending on when you read this brief) so just drop us a line via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.