

Friday 17 June 2022

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**Strike action – train disruption** Industrial action, planned for 21, 23, and 25 June, means there will no trains in or out of Aberdeen on these dates. It is likely services on the days in between may also be subject to disruption. [Further information is available on the Scotrail website.](#)

**Single use cutlery - retail catering** A ban on single-use plastic consumer products came into effect in Scotland on 1 June. In line with the ban, all retail catering outlets are withdrawing plastic cutlery. From 1 July 2022, plastic cutlery will no longer be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own cutlery; reusable items will be available for purchase, priced at 10p per item.

**Avian influenza – advice to the public** While the risk to humans of avian influenza is low, it is worth remembering the following key points:

- If you come across a single dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese, or ducks), a single dead bird of prey, or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls) at the same place at the same time, you should report them to Defra's national telephone helpline: 03459 33 55 77.
- Wild birds can carry several diseases infectious to people, so do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find. Please also ensure dogs are kept on a lead when in areas of high concentration of wild birds.
- If you find a sick or injured wild bird, you should report this to the SSPCA by calling 03000 999 999.
- If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or captive birds you must report it immediately by contacting your local [Animal and Plant Health Agency Field Services Office](#). Failure to do so is an offence.
- Finally, if you find a dead raptor/corvid and believe it to be the victim of wildlife crime, do not touch it, but report to Police Scotland by calling 101 and asking for the incident to be referred to a Wildlife Crime Officer.

**Fully funded PhD opportunity for nurses/midwives** A unique opportunity to study full-time for a PhD has been made available to nurses and midwives working in NHS Grampian. The funding is offered jointly by NHS Grampian and the Division of Nursing & Paramedic Practice in Queen Margaret University. The funding covers wages (equivalent to the maximum of top increment Band 5) and academic fees, enabling the nurse or midwife to be released 0.8 WTE to undertake this PhD study over three years. This PhD is of strategic importance for the organisation as it seeks to understand and improve how the care assurance framework can be used to inform and enhance practice and patient outcomes. [More details and guidance on how to apply are available here.](#) If you are interested in applying and wish to discuss the project, the study programme, or your application please do not hesitate to get in contact with Debbie Baldie at [deborah.baldie@nhs.scot](mailto:deborah.baldie@nhs.scot).

**That was the week that was** This is your regular Friday run through of the key items shared in this week's briefs. [All briefs are available to read online here.](#)

Monday 13 – iMatter team confirmation, Yellow Card scheme for reporting adverse drug reactions, opportunity to join Sustainability Network.

Tuesday 14 – Arranging meetings and a test of change, further information on portfolio working approach, NHS Scotland event evening receptions.

Wednesday 15 – Update on COVID-19, reminder of social media policies, last opportunity to complete survey on Endowment Fund.

Thursday 16 – Video update from Chief Executive, Smarter Working, security tagging events at ARI, Cornhill, and Woodend.

**Tune of the day** A certain Paul McCartney celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday tomorrow. I could be here from now until next week with tunes from him, but I've gone for [Live and Let Die](#), because it is the theme song to the first Bond film I ever saw and to settle a domestic argument about the best version (I like Guns 'n' Roses but their cover of this just needs to go away). Whatever you are up to this weekend, have a good one, the brief will be back on Monday (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)