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26th June 2018

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for your joint letter of 30 May seeking clarification in relation to Malcolm Wright's position at NHS Grampian.

I would like to begin by reassuring you that we are working closely with the local teams in NHS Grampian to support improvements around waiting times and will continue to do so over the coming months.

As you will be aware Mr Wright announced his retirement from NHS Grampian on 7 June, to take effect at the end of August. The recruitment and appointment of a new Chief Executive is a matter for the NHS Grampian Board, however, in the meantime, an interim Chief Executive is already in place following the recent changes to the Senior Leadership Team.

When Mr Wright became Chief Executive of NHS Tayside in April, a series of senior leadership changes were put in place to ensure the governance arrangements of NHS Grampian continue to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients. Professor Amanda Croft took on the role of Acting Chief Executive with day- to-day leadership responsibilities and to support her, Graeme Smith, Director of Modernisation, became Acting Deputy Chief Executive. Further changes to the Senior Leadership Team were also made to support these new arrangements.

To maintain stability at NHS Tayside, Mr Wright has agreed to remain as Tayside's Chief Executive until the end of the year to allow the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive to proceed. For clarity, he has advised that his post at Tayside has not played a part in his decision to retire from Grampian.

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I hope this provides the clarification you were seeking in relation to the senior leadership within NHS Grampian and reassurance that there are robust leadership arrangements in place for both NHS Grampian and NHS Tayside.

Best wishes,
Shona

SHONA ROBISON

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