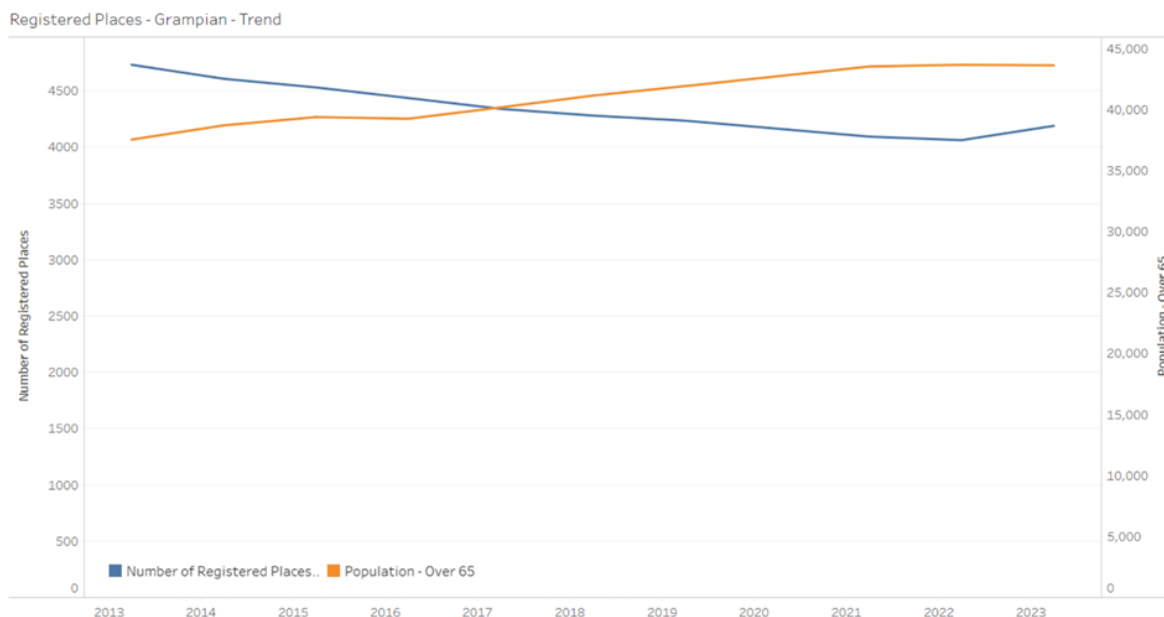


# Daily Brief...

Tuesday 28 November 2023

**The week in review** G-OPES levels (our measure of operational pressure) have stayed consistently high over the last two weeks and remain significantly higher than this time last year. Of particular note, G-OPES level 4 (the highest level) was regularly reported by Aberdeenshire H&SCP, Integrated Specialist Care Portfolio, Medicine & Unscheduled Care Portfolio, Royal Cornhill Hospital, and Specialist Older Adults & Rehabilitation Services.

We know this relentless pressure in health care has been building for some time with long term trends in population health, demographics, and health care capacity. This week, Public Health Scotland published results from the [Care Home census](#) presenting a very stark picture. Across Scotland, there has been a 19% reduction in the number of care homes over the past 10 years, with a 5% drop in the overall number of registered places. The situation is even more marked in Grampian; since 2013, there has been a 12% reduction in the number of registered care home places alongside a 16% increase in our population aged over 65 (see chart below). Care at home teams and social care support provide alternative ways to meet these care needs, yet they themselves are under considerable pressure. This goes some way to explaining the pressure we face with delayed discharge and the challenges for community teams.



**Festive Period Salary Submission Deadlines** Due to earlier payroll deadlines in December and January and the public holidays during the festive period the deadlines for submission of all e-ESS Manager Self Service changes and paper claim travel documentation require to be earlier than normal. [The full details are available here](#) and are also attached to the email used to send this brief.

**ICYMI - Christmas decorations** The infection prevention & control team have updated their guidance on safely decorating your ward/clinic/area for the festive season. It is available to view on the intranet here: [Risk Control Notice – Christmas decorations](#).

**Christmas service guide** We are once again putting together a guide to ensure everyone is up to date on any adjustments to usual running over the festive period. If that applies to your team, please email the details to [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) with the subject title 'Festive service changes'.

**Become a Registered Nurse with the Open University** The OU offer a four year, part-time, programme blending online and practice-based learning, leading to a qualification in adult, mental health, learning disability, or children and young people nursing. To be eligible, you must have a permanent post with NHS Grampian, working a minimum of 26 hours/week, have numeracy and communications skills at SCQF Level 5 or equivalent, and have your line manager's support. Information sessions are taking place as follows:

- Wednesday 10 January, 2-3.30pm, Medical Lecture Theatre, ARI
- Wednesday 17 January, 2-3.30pm, [on MS Teams using this link](#)

If you have any questions about the OU programme, you can contact them directly via [scotland-nursing-applications@open.ac.uk](mailto:scotland-nursing-applications@open.ac.uk)

**Staff offer – free trial at RGU SPORT** A reminder Robert Gordon University are offering a 2-week free trial of their gym facilities at Garthdee to all NHS staff, with the trial period starting **this** Friday (1 December). To sign up for this great offer please email [rgusportenquiries@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:rgusportenquiries@rgu.ac.uk) with the following information:

- NHS GYM as email subject
- Full name
- Date of birth
- Address
- Contact number
- Email address

RGU will then reply with the next steps; **please note you will need to bring your NHS staff ID to RGU SPORT every time you visit during the trial**. You can email anytime from now until 13 December to get set up for this, but the sooner you email, the more of the trial period you can take advantage of.

**Tune of the day** Hannah McKay makes today's request; she's a receptionist and care navigator with Newburn Healthcare and they have welcomed new members into the team recently. To mark this, she's asked for [Getting to Know You](#) from The King and I. Fun fact, Deborah Kerr's lips may be moving in that video, but the voice belongs to Marni Nixon, who also sang for Audrey Hepburn in My Fair Lady, and Natalie Wood in West Side Story (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)