

# Core brief

**Christmas message from Professor John Brown CBE, Chairman, and Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(23 December 2021, 10.00am)**

At the start of this year, it was hoped that by the time we reached Christmas, the challenges we faced would be over and the pandemic would have passed. It is almost implausible to think, another 12 months on, we continue to deal with the issues associated with COVID-19. It has been a particularly hard 12 months, both in terms of the task at hand, managing COVID related care, whilst also trying to remobilise our services. This has been a huge ask of staff, patients and members of the public alike and we are very thankful to everyone who has continued to provide exceptional care, follow the guidelines and take every step possible to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

As such, it is really important that we celebrate some of the exceptional efforts made by our staff, the enormity of the commitment each of you has shown and the progress we have made with the implementation of new and alternative care pathways so that our patients and wider public could be provided with appropriate support and care across all of our services. Our clinical and nursing teams have been nothing short of magnificent and we would like to sincerely thank you all for your commitment, determination and dedication to our patients.

We would also like to thank all of our support staff, who are often our unsung heroes. Our porters, domestics, catering, maintenance and transport teams, admin and clerical teams, diagnostics and laboratory staff as well as our corporate services teams, all of whom have played a vital role in keeping things moving forward, often behind the scenes. Thank you all for your support throughout the year.

Our vaccination teams, who have been working tirelessly throughout the year, have now administered well in excess of 2.2 million vaccinations. When Scotland embarked on the campaign to vaccinate the nation, we did not anticipate the size of the task, but despite this, our vaccinators, pharmacists and logistics teams have proven themselves to be a significant force in the fight against COVID-19. Likewise, with our Test and Protect staff who have been at the forefront of giving, often rapidly changing, guidance to the public and helping people to stay safe.

While we recognise that we still have challenges ahead, what all of our staff have shown through the course of this year is resilience, compassion for our patients and a commitment to providing the best possible treatment. You have supported one another, you have made positive changes to the way we work, so that we can continue to improve and you have been innovative in your approach, so that we could continue to provide patient centred care to all.

To every member of the NHSGGC team, we would like to thank you for everything you have done throughout 2021 and offer our very best wishes for the festive season and New Year ahead.