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Aberdeen  
AB15 6RE



Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Our Ref: Travel Health  
Your Ref: Travel Health  
Enquiries to Vaccination team  
Email: gram.vaccineenquiries@nhs.scot

Dear Colleagues,

**NHS Grampian Travel Health Service**

I have been asked to write to give further explanation about the decision to restrict the travel health service and to terminate the SLA.

Thank you for your support to the vaccination programme and in particular for your professional delivery of the travel health service over the last three years. I understand the concern, anger and upset news like this brings.

This service has a modest budget and last year, despite controls in place was overspent by around 5%. Nationally and locally budgets are under pressure and difficult choices need to be made.

In the first five months of this financial year the travel health budget has spent 170% of last year's spend for the comparative period. This is a position we cannot allow to continue. Restrictions on activity were put in place to be fair to all participating pharmacies whilst avoiding an overspend. This is in keeping with the red escalation process agreed at the start of the SLA. It was further decided to give notice on the contract as, based on last year's figures, the risk of a significant overspend was high. This model of delivery is not affordable within available resources.

I understand that some of you have asked for discussions to break the SLA contract and have already ceased activity. The website will be updated as the situation becomes clearer.

Those citizens requesting NHS advice can be directed to [www.grampianvax.com](http://www.grampianvax.com) where they will be able to find pharmacies who are continuing to offer a service. They will also find the email address to write to if they have concerns on the "contact us" tab. As NHS appointment slots will be limited, a "first come, first served" policy seems the most fair under the circumstances. Again, the website will be updated as more information becomes available.

Again, I'd like to thank you for your help and professionalism at this difficult time. Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Clare Walker'.

Dr Clare Louise Walker  
Consultant in Public Health Medicine