

Good News – Corporate Resources – 28.05.25

1. New appointments in the HR & Communications

I am pleased to advise that Alan Forsyth (formerly an employee in BT) has been appointed to the role of Learning and Development Manager with Nicky Maclennan appointed as the Programme Manager for Investors in People.

2. Emergency Planning Exercise

Members, our Emergency Planning team ran a successful emergency planning training exercise – Exercise LONESTAR – a requirement assessed by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

The ONR's Head of Regulation for Emergency Preparedness and Response drew particular attention to the performance of Emergency Planning Officer Hannah Cameron-Ross, saying "We were struck by the additional effort and focus that Hannah brought to this exercise...She deserves to be recognised for her diligence, application and positive contribution. All my inspectors who worked with Hannah on the exercise remarked on her willingness and positive attitude"

3. New qualifications

I would like to congratulate colleagues who have recently achieved qualifications:

- Talent Manager, Koreen MacDougall, and HR Business Partner, Vanessa Gunn, have both achieved their CIPD Associate Diploma in People Management (level 5).
- Investors in People Programme Manager, Nicky Maclennan, achieved her PRINCE 2 project management qualification.
- Fiona Borwick, Health Safety and Wellbeing Technician, has successfully passed part 1 of the NEBOSH level 6 National Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management. This demonstrates an approach to grow our own in an area of the service which is experiencing difficulty in recruiting Health and Safety Advisers.

4. The Highland Trusted Trader scheme

The Highland Trusted Trader scheme, run by the Council's Trading Standards team, will officially launch on 3rd September 2025, with 27 Highland business applications already in progress. The scheme already helps consumers find reliable, vetted local traders and avoid rogue operators. For businesses, it offers a recognised endorsement of fair trading and good customer service, boosting their reputation and visibility. It's a positive step for consumer confidence and contributes to a stronger, more resilient local economy.