

Primary Care Directorate



Scottish Government
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For Action

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PUBLIC HOLIDAY TO MARK SCOTLAND'S OPENING GAME AT THE MEN'S FIFA WORLD CUP - 15 JUNE 2026 – GENERAL PRACTICE

Dear colleagues

1. Earlier this year, the First Minister announced the intention to declare a Bank Holiday after Scotland's opening game of the 2026 Men's Fifa World Cup in order to allow as many people as possible to celebrate the first time the men's national team has participated in the tournament since 1998.
2. That proposal has now received royal assent and this letter confirms that Monday 15 June 2026 will be an additional Public Holiday in NHS Scotland. This circular is to confirm that GP contractors will be entitled to an additional day's public holiday in 2026 on Monday 15 June.

Background

3. The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the 2004 Regulations) define the "out of hours period" as "including Christmas Day, New Year's Day and any other public or local holiday. "Public or local holiday" is in turn defined as "any public or local holiday which is agreed in writing between the Health Board and the contractor and which

shall, in aggregate, be no less than those available to NHS staff employed by the Health Board”.

Leave Arrangements

4. NHS Boards are therefore asked to agree in writing with GP contractors any holiday arrangements that will apply on Monday 15 June.

Communication

5. NHS boards should ensure that they advertise their public holiday schedules on notice boards, patient leaflets and through the local media and their website.
6. Clear communication should be given in a timely fashion so all patients are aware in advance of which services are available during public holidays.

Action

7. NHS Boards are asked to action this guidance and to bring this circular to the attention of all relevant staff and contractors.

Yours sincerely



Tim McDonnell
Director Primacy Care Directorate