



Building a COVID-19 testing lab



Did you know that Health Facilities Scotland staff have helped to create the vital regional laboratories for COVID-19 testing?

Health Facilities Scotland's Principal Architect, Susan Grant, has had a central role in establishing **three regional testing hubs in the North, West and East of Scotland**. She acts as a go-between for distinct groups of people: the healthcare professionals, the design teams and the builders.

Building an NHS lab is a familiar project for Susan, but as she explained "the level of throughput for the regional hubs is more akin to a factory process." That brings risks and the need to build in resilience.

Safety, as always, was paramount and the design of the hubs was kept as flexible as possible so changes could be easily made. The speed and complexity of the builds was challenging; many stakeholders including four health boards were involved in all elements, in three locations, all at the same time.



Excluding contractors, 153 people were involved across Scotland. Susan and her team had to work remotely across three sites, so they used digital tools to enable collaboration and Microsoft Teams channels to coordinate efforts.

It took just three months to successfully brief, design and construct these highly complex labs that would typically take up to three years each. The whole project team worked tirelessly together across all sites to regenerate unused portions of our NHS estate. These laboratories will deliver fantastic modern facilities that will last long after COVID-19.

Interested in finding out more? Contact us on nss.hfsenquiries@nhs.scot

