

# Scandal and criticism marked tenure

**NHS DEPARTURE:**  
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Mr Archibald promised to make NHS Tayside one of the best performing health boards in Scotland but it has been engulfed in controversy during his tenure.

In January, then First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was asked to stop Tayside chiefs scaling back surgery in a bid to mask financial troubles.

A month later John Burns, who is the chief operating officer of NHS Scotland, intervened to ensure the plan was scrapped.

Around that time, the region was said to be at the epicentre of a “national scandal” in adult psychiatry care.

Meanwhile, Mr Archibald was repeatedly criticised for failing to get to grips with the NHS Tayside breast cancer crisis unfolding on his watch.

The Courier released a feature-length documentary exploring the lack of evidence around government claims patients were put at an increased risk of having their cancer return because of the strength of chemotherapy they were offered.

The treatment was largely delivered before Mr Archibald took up the chief executive role.

But senior cancer specialists accused bosses of throwing them under the bus when the revelations first came to light.

This year NHS Tayside has faced questions over its handling of the scandal that saw rogue surgeon Sam Eljamel leave hundreds of patients scarred for life following botched operations.

Whistleblowers claim managers knew about concerns over the disgraced Dundee doctor years before he was suspended in 2013 – an allegation denied by the organisation.