

Question	Lead Executive	Response	Additional Information if required
<p><b>Is there a case for NHS Orkney to invest in its own bone density scanner?</b></p>	<p>Anna Lamont</p>	<p>At present there are no plans to purchase a DEXA scanner for NHS Orkney. The Osteoporosis service has been run from NHS Grampian for a number of years. Earlier this year we entered into discussions with the team in Aberdeen, who recognise that the island boards could have a much more efficient service if we trained a number of staff to undertake the scans, rather than sending staff up from Aberdeen.</p> <p>A few members of the Radiography Team have just completed the training and are working with Aberdeen to arrange visits for the rest of the year, the visit in early 2025 will be for longer and we will be able to offer more appointments for scans. The booking and timing of the visits is influenced by the other remote and rural areas visited by the van to ensure all areas have an appropriate share of the time for their communities.</p> <p>The service in Aberdeen is replacing the DEXA van and this will be in ready early in the next financial year, which will improve the service we can offer, reducing the wait for an appointment and making the service more responsive to local needs in terms of delivery of the service.</p>	<p>We currently have 257 patients waiting for DEXA scans and it is hoped that in the visits coming up we will be able to appoint the majority of these patients, these appointments will be made by the Aberdeen team once we have confirmation of the visits.</p> <p>The service in Aberdeen is replacing the DEXA van and this will be in ready early in the next financial year, which will improve the service we can offer.</p> <p>We hope that this will help to reduce the wait for an appointment and make the service more responsive to local needs in terms of delivery of the service.</p>
<p><b>What is NHS Orkney doing, including with partners, to further improve dementia care?</b></p>	<p>Stephen Brown</p>	<p>We have appointed a part time GP with Special Interest in Dementia, and this year this has increased capacity to see more patients leading to more people receiving a diagnosis for Dementia. Funded by the Integration Joint Board (IJB), our Alzheimer Specialist Nurse continues to offer considerable support to those whose need is at the highest end, often in our care homes.</p> <p>We continue to look for opportunities to employ an Older Adult Psychiatrist on a part time basis and work</p>	

		<p>is ongoing in that respect. The IJB funds the post diagnostic support service delivered by Age Scotland Orkney and has additionally funded Cognitive Stimulation Therapy sessions (also delivered by Age Scotland Orkney). The IJB also made a significant financial contribution to the creation of an Admiral Nurse post here in Orkney hosted by Age Scotland Orkney in conjunction with Dementia UK.</p>	
<p><b>What are the main Public and Population Health priorities for Orkney?</b></p>	<p>Louise Wilson</p>	<p>NHS Orkney aligns its public and population health focus with the public health priorities for Scotland as set out in our clinical strategy 2022-2027, which include a Scotland where people stay in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities and where people flourish in early years and have good mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We are committed to reducing the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, supporting people to eat well and have a healthy weight, be physically active and to put in place mechanisms for a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all. We also provide a 24/7 health protection service and deliver all national screening programmes.</p> <p>We deliver our public health priorities through collaborative working with our Community Planning Partnership and the local health and social care partnership Orkney Health and Care, maintaining a focus on reducing inequalities.</p>	
<p><b>Access to GP appointments and how some Kirkwall residents find it difficult to access such appointments.</b></p>	<p>Stephen Brown</p>	<p>We are aware of reports that some patients are waiting up to 2 weeks for a GP appointment in Orkney. We know there are other parts of the country where patients wait much longer than this.</p> <p>We have every confidence that GPs 'manage' clinically urgent conditions in a timely manner when identified</p>	

		<p>through triage, but triage outcomes don't necessarily align with patient's opinion and that will always influence perceived issues in terms of access to GP's.</p> <p>What we do know is that a national IJB report published this year has rated Orkney as having the best satisfaction in Scotland with 90.1% of respondents saying they were happy with the care provided by their GP Practice against a national average of less than 65%.</p> <p>We recognise the importance of improving access to services, this is a key priority on the Primary Care agenda, and this very much includes General Practice.</p>	
<p><b>“Why does NHS Orkney use the terms ‘on island’ and ‘off island’?”</b></p> <p>These are confusing and inaccurate! Orkney is an archipelago; therefore, one is either in Orkney or not in Orkney.</p> <p>The correct terms would be ‘in Orkney or within Orkney’ and ‘out of Orkney or outwith Orkney’.</p> <p>Incidentally, ‘outwith’, meaning outside or beyond, is a Scottish word, and is one word, not two.</p> <p>Allow me to explain why to say ‘off island’ is inaccurate. Living in a group of islands, if you say, ‘off island’, it is not clear which island? If you are in Kirkwall from Papa Westray, are you ‘off island’. If you then travel to Aberdeen, are you ‘off island, off island’? If someone says,</p>	<p>Laura Skaife-Knight</p>	<p>We will reinforce not using the language on and off island, for all the reasons you describe, recognising this means something to our community.</p> <p>I think the simplest language to use here is to say in Orkney or not in Orkney as you say, and to take this further refer to our ferry-linked isles where needed or simply say ‘go South for treatment and care’ which is feedback we have had from our patients and which we have included in our Corporate Strategy.</p>	

<p>'He is on island', which island is he on? Shapinsay!</p> <p>These inaccurate terms seem to have crept into corporate language and should be avoided. The community don't want to feel alienated by confusing terms that have sneaked in. I think this is important for the community; they want language to be plain and familiar.</p> <p>A comment from a previous review was that the language used was too corporate and confusing. Here is one suggestion to avoiding the same criticism.</p>			
<p><b>'Are there any proposal's nationally or locally to review the makeup of the health board in light of the Letby case?'</b></p>	<p>Meghan McEwen</p>	<p>There are no plans for reconfiguration of the NHS Orkney board nationally or locally specifically related to the Letby case.</p>	
<p><b>Who owns the old Balfour hospital and what is going to happen to it?</b></p>	<p>Phil Tydeman</p>	<p>NHS Orkney owns the Old Balfour Hospital. Our intention is to sell the property as we no longer require use of the full site. In terms of what is going to happen to it, we are currently exploring a range of options. We want to make sure that we get the best outcome for NHS Orkney whether that is to re-invest any monies back into our clinical services or to retain part of the site to meet any long-term clinical or accommodation space requirements. We aim to complete that review of options and make a recommendation to the Board in April 2025 on how best to proceed.</p>	
<p><b>Can we have a mixer tap for the sink in the upstairs kitchen in CSB</b></p>	<p>Sam Thomas</p>	<p>Kitchen sinks provide fresh cold drinking water which cannot be achieved by a mixer tap.</p>	

<p><b>How does the Board hold the CEO, Executive Team and organisation to account – both when it comes to performance and behaviours?</b></p>	<p>Laura Skaife-Knight</p>	<p>There are several ways the Board Holds the CEO and Executive team to account on their performance and behaviours, these are as follows:</p> <p>Each Executive Director has a set of personal and shared objectives a personal development plan and improvement plan where required. These are reviewed at a mid-year and year-end review.</p> <p>360-degree appraisals are being introduced in 2025 for the CEO and all Executive Directors providing an opportunity for feedback from internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>A Board development programme is in place as well as an Executive Team development programme.</p> <p>It is the role of the Board &amp; Board Committee meetings to hold Executive Directors to account.</p> <p>The Remuneration Committee has oversight of the CEO and Executive Team performance.</p> <p>Performance Review Meetings is another mechanism for holding Executives to account along with the Integrated Performance Report which comes to the Senior Leadership Team and Board bi-monthly and governance committees for scrutiny every quarter.</p> <p>We have asked our Executive Directors to be visible and demonstrate compassionate leadership, role modelling behaviours are expected.</p>	
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Please note all questions submitted have received a formal written response (for those who submitted contact details).