

# ROUSAY, EGILSAY, WYRE & GAIRSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Chairman**

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## **Clerk**

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3 May 2010

Ms C Cowan  
Chief Executive, NHS Orkney  
NHS Orkney-Board Headquarters  
Garden House  
New Scapa Road  
Kirkwall  
Orkney  
KW15 1BQ

Dear Ms Cowan

## **RE: GP Provision for Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Communities**

At the recent meeting of the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council (REWGCC), on the 27 April 2010, the chairperson raised the issue, of the inappropriate provision of GP cover on the islands, causing a lack of continuity of care for residents and the exorbitant cost to the NHS. Members were informed that on this day (27 April 2010), three GP's had been sent to provide cover on the island, compounding an already tense and frustrating situation.

It is now three months since the REWGCC, met with NHS Orkney Primary & Community Services Redesign Group on the 16 February 2010, and to date, no action has been forthcoming. The members raised the same concerns as they had for the past five years, and these were:-

1. that the community wants a resident GP; and
2. that in all the discussions with the various NHS Orkney boards, a Nurse Practitioner model has been given as the proposed choice, but without any explanation for the preference; and
3. that the REWGCC have put forward the concept of a Nurse Practitioner working alongside a GP based on the island. This suggestion is felt to offer good practice, allowing the community to become confident with the service on offer and the roles of the staff.

It was resolved at the meeting (16<sup>th</sup> Feb) that the NHS Board would look again, at their proposals and provide 2-3 options to present to the REWGCC with reasons for their choice, in three months. The chairperson insisted that GP cover continue until the next meeting, and to arrange a schedule for six months. Since the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb, we have seen 12 different GP's providing cover for our three islands.

Members are eager to move the process forward and reach a satisfactory conclusion, but based on previous experience this seems to be a lost cause.

I have been requested to contact you, and ask for some progress on this matter, within your role as 'Chief Executive' to the Board.

Members feel they have given NHS Orkney plenty of opportunities over a number of years to provide a solution. Failure to reach a conclusion in the near future will, I am sorry to say, result in this problem escalating with perhaps unpleasant consequences for NHS Orkney.

I look forward to hearing from you by the 17<sup>th</sup> May and passing your comments to the Community Council.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Compton  
Clerk

Received 15.5.10.

**Chief Executive**

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Date: 12 May 2010  
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Dear Ms Compton

**Re: GP Provision for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Communities**

Thank you for your letter dated 3 May 2010 from the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council (REWGCC) in regard to the above. I fully appreciate your frustrations and share your disappointment that having met NHS Orkney Primary and Community Service Redesign Group on 16 February 2010, 'no action has been forthcoming'.

I have checked progress on the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Primary and Community Services Redesign with the NHS Orkney Primary and Community Service Redesign Group and am reassured that the NHS Orkney team are, as agreed, preparing the consultation document with 2 – 3 options to present to the REWCC and that this document will soon be ready to share with you.

Rather than respond to each of the issues raised, I suggest that I attend the next meeting that will be set up between NHS Orkney and the REWGCC to discuss the 2 – 3 options and confirm a way forward with an acceptable timescale that meets our joint aspirations.

I will ask Georgie Clark to contact you to set this meeting up.

I trust this is helpful and I very much look forward to meeting you and the wider Community Council.

Yours sincerely

Cathie Cowan  
Chief Executive

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Garden House, New Scaja Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1BQ

Chair: John Ross Scott  
Chief Executive: Cathie Cowan  
Orkney NHS Board is the common name of Orkney Health Board

Caring for the people of Orkney