



**NHS Orkney
Information Pack**

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Welcome from Michael Dickson, Chief Executive

Thank you for your interest in this position.

Considering a move to somewhere like Orkney can feel like a daunting decision, what will it be like? Where will I live? What about Schools and childcare? Why should I come to Orkney?

We have tried to answer some of these questions and give you some information about living and working in Orkney and further details about NHS Orkney. I hope that you find this pack useful and it helps you come to the conclusion that you should apply to work with us.



NHS Orkney is committed to the delivery of high-quality, safe, and effective care for all that need us. We are proud to employ about 700 staff across our community, primary and secondary care services.

NHS Orkney has seen significant changes in how we deliver services to our community with a real focus on providing care in Orkney and ideally in their own home. The pace of change will continue to accelerate driven by the committed staff who are keen to adopt new and innovative ways of working without losing what is special to working in Orkney, our community. I am committed to working in an open, honest and transparent way that supports staff to innovate, be bold and be brave knowing that not everything we do turns out as we intended, and it is important that we learn from these events so we can continue to improve what we do. NHS Orkney has a clear set of core values and these drive all we do:

- Care and Compassion
- Dignity and Respect
- Quality and Teamwork
- Openness, Honesty and Responsibility

The final thing I would like to say to any prospective applicant is that Orkney occupies an enviable location at the north of Scotland with breath taking beaches, hills, mountains and rolling countryside right on our doorstep. Orkney has consistently come out top in national lifestyle and happiness surveys, with an open and vibrant community, it is the perfect location to provide a safe and welcoming home. This, along with Orkney's direct flight connections to other major cities in Scotland, means the area can offer employees plenty of opportunities for those in pursuit of finding the right work-life balance.

Michael Dickson
Chief Executive
NHS Orkney



Job Advert



Are you ready to develop new generalist skills and build on your experience?

Could your nursing skills and experience help us to achieve our vision of becoming a centre of excellence in remote and rural healthcare?

NHS Orkney is working hard to be the best remote and rural care provider in the UK, do you want to play a part in helping us achieve our vision?

Take your career to the next level in Orkney - voted the best place to live in Scotland for eight years in a row.

As a Registered Nurse you will be a vital contributor in protecting the health and lives of Orkney's residents through various stages of their care. Our roles offer a variety of practice in different areas and specialisms, with a genuine prospect to make an impact on the development of improved clinical services.

With views as far as the eyes can see, stunning beaches and miles-upon-miles of coastline, you'll always find your own space in Orkney. With this, it is no surprise that Orkney has been voted the best place to live in Scotland for eight years running.

Colleagues relocating to live in Orkney joining NHS Orkney will receive:

- An excellent support package of up to £8,000 is available to assist your relocation to Orkney, subject to eligibility
- Orkney residents receive a supplementary salary benefit of £1,314 pro rata per annum.

NHS Orkney's hospital and healthcare facility, The Balfour, opened in 2019 and is transforming the way healthcare is delivered. With inpatient wards, an emergency department, outpatients, diagnostic services, Dentistry, two GP practices and the Scottish Ambulance Service all under one roof, there are excellent opportunities for close multidisciplinary working to benefit our patients. We are now working towards further investment in our outer island facilities. These developments allow us to drive forward service improvement with confidence.

Orkney is truly a great place for a family. The educational system is extensive as it is excellent, from pre-school to postgraduate. We might be a small community, but we are well equipped with exceptional health, well-being and leisure facilities.

Orkney has several flights a day to Scotland's largest airports, so you won't feel isolated here. Very low crime levels and a strong sense of community make Orkney a safe and secure environment for all ages too. And the best bit is there being very little traffic anywhere – your daily commute will be almost non-existent!

If you're enthused by what we have to offer, share our vision, and believe you can contribute to NHS Orkney, we would be thrilled to hear from you.

NHS Orkney is seeking talented Nurses in the following areas:

If you are enticed about experiencing the beauty of Orkney, but not sure about making the permanent move, why not try out a vacancy for six months? We are open to working flexibly with you and can offer permanent, fixed term, full time, part time or relief contracts to meet your needs.

If none of the above vacancies are suitable, please select 'Apply for Job' below noting your area of preference in your application.

To discuss further options or to find out more information please email ork.recruitment@nhs.scot

Introduction to Orkney and NHS Orkney



Lying off the northern coast of Scotland, between John O’Groats and the Shetland Isles, Orkney is an archipelago of over 70 beautiful islands; 17 of which are inhabited. The total population is approximately 22,000, with most people living on the Orkney Mainland. Kirkwall, the capital with its spectacular red sandstone 12th-century cathedral and a population of 7,500, is the administrative centre of Orkney with a good mixture of shops, supermarkets, and businesses.

Orkney is a wonderful place to live and offers excellent schools and leisure facilities, low pollution, low crime, unique wildlife, and amazing scenery. Although remote, there are excellent transport connections with numerous flights to Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Inverness every day. There are ferry services to Aberdeen, Scrabster, and Gills Bay, and of course to the smaller isles in Orkney.

Orkney’s economy is based on agriculture, generating some £30 million per year. Farmers breed and rear beef cattle, dairy cows, and sheep of the highest standard. Orkney has international recognition for its food, with cheese, beef, lamb, and fish produce becoming well known; not to mention whiskey, beer, and gin. Tourism, oil, and the renewable energy sectors are increasingly important. Orkney is at the forefront of the renewable wave and tidal energy drive in the UK.

Kirkwall is a great place for children and a wonderful environment for a family. There is a very strong community spirit with a wide range of cultural and sporting activities for adults and children. Schools in Orkney are very good, with no private fees. Imagine all of this within walking distance of your home and workplace. For residents and visitors there is so much to see and do: playing a round of golf, fishing, kayaking, walking, cycling, diving, wind surfing and horse riding are but a few. The Pickaquoy Centre provides a modern well-equipped sports facility, swimming pool and entertainment centre. There are many cultural activities, with annual music, jazz and science festivals attended by internationally renowned artists and scientists. There is an extremely wide variety of activities for children



and young people. Homes are very affordable and with little traffic, travelling around the islands is easy.

According to the 2020 Bank of Scotland quality of life survey, for eight years in a row Orkney was crowned the best place to live in Scotland. The island took the top prize due to high employment levels, low crime rates, smaller primary class sizes along with good health and happiness scores. With its strong sense of community, picturesque landscape and rich archaeological treasures, the archipelago frequently wins the hearts of visitors.

Not only is Orkney one of the most affordable places to live in the UK, it also has one of the highest employment rates, with 88 per cent of residents between 16 and 64 currently in work. The low crime rate means that many people do not even lock their front doors to allow the postie to place the post and packages inside the door. As for overall wellbeing, more than nine in 10 Orkney residents report good or fairly good health.

To find out more about living and working in Orkney go to www.orkney.com or www.orkneycommunities.co.uk and learn more about NHS Orkney at www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk.



Recruitment Process

The NHS Scotland Everyone Matters 2020 Workforce Vision outlines the commitment the Scottish Government has in putting people at the centre of everything the NHS in Scotland does. Working to a common set of values, the vision will continue to modernise the way we work, embracing technology and digital transformation.

All vacancies will be advertised on NHS Scotland's recruitment website:

<https://apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk/>

Internal vacancies will be advertised on NHS Scotland's internal recruitment website:

<https://apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk/internal/>

CVs are not accepted as a form of application; NHS Scotland's electronic application form must be used on the above links.

All adverts will close at midnight on the advertised closing date.

Our selection process will consist of the following assessments:

- **Application short listing** – application forms are reviewed and those meeting the role requirements will be invited to a competency-based interview
- **Interview/Assessment** – competency-based interviews have a focus on NHS Orkney's core values and the candidate's technical expertise. The interview may also include a role specific test or a presentation topic.

Any job offer will be subject to meeting the conditions of NHS Orkney's safer pre- and post-employment checks policy:

- **Employment references** - references should include current and previous employers covering the last 3 years of your employment history
- **Evidence of qualifications** – candidates will be required to provide evidence of their qualifications, including proof of professional registration if required
- **Medical assessment** – the Occupational Health service will make an assessment on your fitness to carry out the information provided in a questionnaire. In certain circumstances further information is required and Occupational Health may contact you by telephone or request that you attend for an appointment
- **Criminal conviction check** – all applicants who apply for posts which are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and who will have access to patients during their employment will be required to consent to a Disclosure Scotland Criminal Records Check or join the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme.
- **Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2007 – Prevention of illegal working** – candidates must be eligible to work in the UK, evidence of this must be provided.

For any queries relating to this vacancy, or our Recruitment Process, please email

ork.recruitment@nhs.scot

Equality and Diversity

NHS Orkney is committed to Equality & Diversity <https://www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk/about-us/equality-and-diversity>