

**Rural Acute GP -  
Barra and Vatersay**

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Western Isles Health Board  
**The best at what we do**



# Job Advert




**Rural Acute GP – Barra  
GP DOCTOR GRADE**  
**£66,031 to £98,555 plus 40% enhancement**  
**Plus Distant Island Allowance £1,279 per annum**  
**41 days Annual Leave per annum**  
**Permanent Post**  
**THESE POSTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RELOCATION EXPENSES**  
**and the Golden Hello scheme – £10,000**

The Isles of Barra and Vatersay are equally renowned for their shimmering beaches and turquoise waters as they are for their warm welcome and strong sense of identity and community. It is in this unique, safe and idyllic location that a rare opportunity has arisen for two GPs with a sense of adventure and passion for remote and rural medicine to escape the rat race and embrace a more healthy work-life balance with NHS Western Isles.

We are looking for two self-reliant and highly-motivated GPs to join our multi-disciplinary team, working closely with our developing Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Integrated Nursing Team, and other primary care specialist clinicians, including our Primary Care Pharmacist and First Contact Physiotherapist. Peer support will also be provided from consultant teams in Stornoway and from mainland colleagues, including emergency retrieval teams.

These new roles, which cover both our new 2c Barra Medical Practice and St Brendan's Community Hospital, will appeal to experienced GPs, but also those earlier in their careers looking for the challenge of widening their clinical skills and providing holistic care in a remote but supported environment. These are roles that present excellent opportunities for the development of skills and confidence, with the remote-island location providing an unrivalled extra sense of responsibility and reward.

The ability, drive and commitment to work as part of a team, sometimes at a distance, and to contribute to the local development of primary care and acute services is important. You will be expected to support clinical colleagues, including medical, nursing, mental health and Scottish Ambulance Service colleagues.



The Isles of Barra and Vatersay within the Outer Hebrides have a vibrant community of approximately 1300 people. The Isles are a special place, offering enviable scenery and good leisure facilities; but also particularly popular with families looking to relocate to a safe place to raise their children, with excellent schools, low crime rates, and affordable housing.

**These posts qualify for the Golden Hello scheme and relocation package. Job shares will be considered.**

For more information on living and working in the Western Isles, visit our website: [www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk) or for more information on Barra and Vatersay visit: [www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/our-islands/barra](http://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/our-islands/barra)


NHS Western Isles is legally obliged to ensure all its employees have the right to work in the United Kingdom. If you are not a United Kingdom (UK) or Irish National, you are required to confirm your right to work in your application.

Applicants must be included on the NHS Western Isles Performers list and registered with the GMC. Must be a member of a recognised medical defence society.

The successful applicants will be required to register with the PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) Scheme.

All NHS Western Isles vacancies appear on NHS Scotland website <https://apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk/> along with a job description.

For further information, contact Dr Francis McAuley, Medical Director, NHS Western Isles on 01851 708050 or [francis.mcauley@nhs.scot](mailto:francis.mcauley@nhs.scot).



## NHS SCOTLAND JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>1. JOB IDENTIFICATION</b>	
Job Title:	Rural Acute GP – Barra and Vatersay
Responsible to (insert job title):	Medical Director
Department(s):	Medical Staffing
Directorate:	Medical
Operating Division:	Acute/Primary
Job Reference:	
No of Job Holders:	On Barra and Vatersay, we will operate with a rotation of 2 WTE unscheduled and urgent care for St. Brendan's hospital and 10 session GP for Barra Medical Practice
Last Update (insert date):	May 2023

<b>2. JOB PURPOSE</b>
<p>To provide Medical cover for the 1250 circa population of the Isles of Barra and Vatersay in the Western Isles.</p> <p>The post holders will be based on Barra in Barra Medical Practice and will provide the full 24/7 medical provision for Barra and Vatersay which includes the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 session GP 2c Barra Medical Practice</li><li>• Unscheduled and Urgent care 24/7, St Brendan's Community Hospital in Barra (3 in-patient beds).</li></ul> <p>The post holders will work on a rotation basis to provide on-island cover for all areas.</p> <p>The successful applicants will be supported by an integrated nursing team across the practice and community hospital. Developments are taking place within the nursing structure to provide additional services on island, 24/7 urgent care, hospital at home and a developing Advanced Nurse Practitioner service.</p>

The post holders will be supported through in reach from the wider multi-disciplinary team which includes a First Contact Physiotherapist, Primary Care Pharmacist, CTAC, Community Nursing/Urgent Care, Family Planning Nurse clinics, vaccination programme, Macmillan nurses, Scottish Ambulance Service and mental health colleagues.

Post holders will provide cross cover for each other in terms of short term absence/leave.

We expect that the Doctors, working with the broader multi disciplinary team, to provide cover and clinical leadership for the healthcare services on Barra and Vatersay, ensuring continuity of care for all patients.

The post holders will require to support GMS enhanced services including custody healthcare and support SAS with any immediate and first response care.

You will establish and maintain clinical quality standards, develop and initiate new systems of working and encourage and promote the development of clinical governance in all areas of work.

There are plans to build the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus which will host the hospital, practice and Scottish Ambulance Service. NHSWI is committed to developing the healthcare workforce with a continued focus on an integrated healthcare delivery model.

**N.B In the event of NHS Scotland being placed on an 'Emergency Footing' and or NHSWI declaring a 'Major Incident', or similar critical service demand, the role will be subject to change based on the exigencies of the service and post holder competence.**

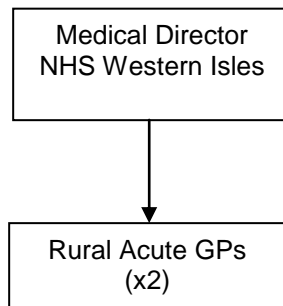
### **3. DIMENSIONS**

The post holders will support:-

- General Medical Services and associated enhanced services, including private medicals.
- Integrated nursing team within Barra, to support the development of urgent care in practice and community and hospital at home.
- Clinical leadership with the practice, and act as the practice quality lead in the GP cluster.
- Lead on care management plans for the patients with complex needs.
- Western Isles urgent care services operating from St Brendan's.
- Patients who are referred to Western Isles urgent care service over a 24-hour period and provide GP cover during the out of hours period including evenings, weekends and public holidays.
- Inpatient care in keeping with a rural island community hospital setting.

- Assessment, stabilisation and referral of patients prior to transfer off-island for definitive care or treatment.
- These posts may include placements with larger acute centres to retain and develop clinical skills and experience as required.
- Multi-Disciplinary Team, meeting weekly, providing leadership and support care management.
- Support ongoing care for patients, following the local pathways to ensure successful and timely access to secondary care through appropriate and timely referrals.
- Healthcare governance for all areas of care and prescribing.
- Medical Students who carry out placements.
- NHSWI commitment to a supported and sustainable GP workforce in remote and rural areas.

#### 4. ORGANISATIONAL POSITION



#### 5. Accountability

You will have a professional accountability to the NHSWI Board Medical Director.

The role of Rural Acute GP operates across the Healthcare service provision for Barra and Vatersay. The Family Health Service Manager (Primary Care Department) carries out the operational management of the medical provision in Barra. The management team will support the Medical Director to develop the medical provisions in Barra and Vatersay.

## 6. KEY RESULT AREAS

### 2c Practice

#### **Clinical**

Taking clinical responsibility for registered patients and maintaining appropriate records of treatment given and services provided, following GMC guidance and good clinical practice.

Offer and carry out consultations and where appropriate, physical examinations for the purposes of identifying and treating illness, disease, long term conditions or injury, including immediately necessary, emergency and temporary patients.

In accordance with the practice timetable, the GPs will make themselves available to undertake a variety of duties including surgery consultations, telephone consultations, duty doctor responsibilities, Palliative Care home visits, checking and signing prescriptions, dealing with queries and paperwork (including DOCMAN) and correspondence in an efficient and timely manner.

Give advice to patients on general health and health promotion matters including alcohol, smoking, misuse of drugs etc.

Offer and arrange the provision of immunisations as appropriate.

Arrange for the referral of patients, as appropriate using SCI-Gateway.

Provide family planning and contraceptive services.

Compiling and issuing computer generated prescriptions in accordance with the NHS Highland Formulary and guidelines whenever this is clinically appropriate.

Carry out medication reviews when appropriate.

Participate in child health surveillance.

Provide maternity medical services and minor surgery services where appropriate, according to the local protocols.

Actively participate/ cooperate in the management arrangements of the practice and in the work of the wider primary healthcare team.

Arrange the effective and efficient ongoing management and support of chronic diseases, utilising the practice team where appropriate.

Maintain appropriate levels and means of communication with other disciplines and agencies that are providing care and support to the practice patients.

Working supportively alongside clinical and administrative colleagues in ensuring the highest standard of care for all Practice patients.

Maintain accurate, contemporaneous and correctly coded records to relevant professional and practice standards and guidelines.

### **Training and teaching**

Participate in the GP Appraisal and Revalidation process.

Participate in the educational and training events in the practice.

If appropriate, participate in teaching in the practice including Medical students etc.

Participate in the training of GP Registrars in accordance to NES guidelines.

### **Communication**

Communicate effectively with clinical and non-clinical colleagues to ensure the smooth running of the practice and services.

Liaise with members of the primary health care team, integrated team, hospitals and other agencies to ensure appropriate care is provided to patients.

Communicate effectively with patients and carers, recognising their needs for alternative methods of communication.

Demonstrate sensitive communication styles to ensure patients are fully informed and consent to treatment.

Communicate difficult and often unpleasant or sensitive messages to patients and families in a compassionate and sensitive manner.

Participate in meetings, as required, including practice meetings.

### **Organisation and Quality**

Recognise and work within own competence and the professional code of conduct for doctors as set out by the GMC.

Must be included on NHS Western Isles Performers list and registered with the GMC. Must be a member of a recognised medical defence society.

Follow NHS Western Isles policies including Security and Information Governance.

Deliver administrative tasks promptly and efficiently.

Prioritise and manage own and others' workload in a manner that maintains and promotes high service and quality standards to ensure effective time management within the team.

Deliver care to local and national standards including SIGN Guidelines, NHS Highland Formulary, and evidence-based care.

Evaluate the quality of the work of self and team, using the audit cycle when appropriate and implementing improvements where required.

Participate in quality improvement initiatives, Scottish Patient Safety Programme – Primary Care initiatives, Significant Event Analysis, peer review and review of complaints and the Quality and Outcomes Framework (or equivalent.)

Cooperate fully and openly with the investigation of patient complaints (or other investigations) including drafting responses to complaints as appropriate.

Support and work towards the achievement of agreed national and local standards.

Support the aims and objectives of the organisation and contribute to the ongoing development of the practice as required.

Ensure the practice and associated areas deliver continuous improvement alongside an active focus on efficiency and effectiveness.

### **Teamwork**

Work as an effective and responsible team member, supporting other members of clinical and non-clinical staff in a flexible and approachable manner.

Understand own role and scope within the organisation and identify how this may develop over time.

Participate in team activities that create opportunities to improve patient care.

Lead or participate in projects or areas of work as required.

### **Information Technology**

Review, enter and process data using accurate Read codes and good record structure in order to ensure easy and accurate information retrieval for monitoring, financial and audit processes.

Timely assessment of incoming electronic and paper correspondence relating to patient and non-patient information as required using DOCMAN.

Follow practice and NHS Western Isles policy regarding the use of email and computer tasks as the main internal method of non-verbal communication and the use of the intranet and internet as the main source of internal and external information, including the retrieval of relevant information for patients on their condition.

Maintain knowledge and skills in the use of practice technology including EMIS and DOCMAN.

### **Equality and Diversity**

Act as a role model in the observance of equality and diversity good practice.

Act in a way that recognises the importance of people's rights, interpreting them in a way that is consistent with procedures.

Respect the privacy, dignity and beliefs of patients, carers, visitors and co-workers. They must be treated equally irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion etc.

Follow the practice chaperoning policy.

Be aware of statutory procedures, local guidance and referral criteria regarding protection of children and vulnerable adults. Follow the guidance and policies and take action in an appropriate manner.

### **Health, safety and security**

Use the personal security systems within the practice according to Practice guidelines.

Monitor work areas and practices to ensure they are safe and free from hazards and conform to health, safety and security legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines.

## **St. Brendan's Hospital**

### **Western Isles Urgent Care Services role**

- Work as a core member of the team of Medical Practitioners and Urgent Care Practitioners to ensure that high quality urgent care services are provided to the population of the Western Isles in line with local and national priorities.
- Responsible for the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of patient care for in-patients and those attending the Emergency Department.
- When clinically indicated provide consultation and clinical management for patients during a home visit.
- Will be expected to support contingency arrangements to support other island localities in the Western Isles.
- Whilst NHS24 will perform an initial telephone assessment for triage, there will still be a requirement to provide telephone consultation/face to face, assessment and treatment as appropriate.
- Taking clinical responsibility for patients and maintaining appropriate records of treatment given and services provided following GMC guidance and good clinical practice, based on assessment to treat or referral of the patient onwards.
- Maintain accurate, legible, contemporaneous records to relevant professional standards

and guidelines of all patient contacts and contribute to electronic data monitoring and audit as required by the service.

- Communicate effectively with clinical and non-clinical colleagues, patients, families and carers to ensure effective care and treatment.
- To utilise the range of Primary Care and Social Work services facilities to manage patients where clinically appropriate within the Community.
- Recognise and work within own competence and the professional code of conduct for Doctors as set out by the GMC.
- To use professional guidelines, knowledge, and expertise to inform an assessment of patients' health and presenting problems.
- Consult with patients as dictated by direct patient contact (walk ins), Custody Care and referrals from NHS 24.
- Provide Clinical Leadership/mentorship to nursing colleagues working in the service to enable effective delivery of services by the MDT.

### **Emergency Department role**

- Support the nursing staff to deliver the highest standard of clinical care.
- Carry out immediate assessment and commence initial treatment to patients presenting with a wide range of possible medical and psychiatric conditions that may present.
- Effective and empathetic communication with patients and relatives, often in highly distressing situations.
- Effective communication and liaison with colleagues within and out with the acute hospital setting.
- Effective and timeous communication with general practitioners, including verbal and written communication.
- Maintain accurate, legible, records to relevant professional standards and guidelines of all patient contacts and contribute to electronic data monitoring and audit as required by the service.
- Recognise and work within own competence and the professional code of conduct for Doctors as set out by the GMC.
- To use professional guidelines, knowledge, and expertise to inform an assessment of the patients' health and presenting problems, to support onward referral or transfer.

### **Inpatients**

- Providing, on rotation, day to day medical cover at the St Brendan's Hospital.
- Inpatient care role involving admission and ongoing care of patients from ED and the local GP community taking advice from appropriate specialities.
- Resuscitation, stabilisation and transfer of critically ill patients.
- Liaise with specialised units, such as EMRS, to arrange all aspects of transfer of critically ill patients.
- Assist the Maternity services as an extension of resuscitation role, which may involve neonate resuscitation.

### Other

- Develop and encourage positive working relationships with the following: Western Isles General Practices, OOH Dental Services, Mental Health Services including drug and alcohol, Secondary Care Services, Scottish Ambulance Service and with the appropriate Local Authority Services, in particular Social Work Department, and with third sector Services.
- Demonstrate continued competence by:
  - gaining and maintaining competencies through continued professional education and reflecting on the lessons they have learned and any changes they might make as a result.
  - contributing to local data collection and analysis, innovation and quality improvement activities appropriate to their role, and demonstrating that their practice is of an appropriate standard and that they have acquired, and maintain, all the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes to perform safely in the role.
  - seeking and acting on feedback about their performance in the role
- Be aware of statutory procedures, local guidance and referral criteria regarding protection of children and vulnerable adults. Follow the guidance and policies and take action in an appropriate manner.
- You will be covered by CNORIS whilst working on behalf of NHS Western Isles as a rural acute GP.
- Apply infection control measures according to local and national guidelines.
- Follow health and safety policies and guidelines, including fire procedures and those pertaining to clinical areas of risk. Use safe working procedures and report incidents using the DATIX system.
- Establish effective networks and team working with other health professionals and

outside agencies working in Urgent Care in the OOH period.

- Undertake appropriate administration in accordance with agreed procedures.
- Participate in Clinical and Care Governance/Audit, Patient Safety Programme and other quality initiatives.
- Participate in operational and strategic planning for the development of Western Isles Urgent Care and Emergency care services.
- Support the aims and objectives of the Service and Organisation.
- Pursue continued professional personal development. An employee in Western Isles Urgent Care Service will have support with professional personal development activities, calculated pro-rata based on individuals contracted hours to the Service. There will be a requirement to focus this development on activities relevant to the role and the Service.
- Participate in the annual Appraisal and Revalidation process.
- Participate in the educational and training events arranged by the Service.
- Maintain and develop professional practice, knowledge, skills and expertise.
- Participate in activity and projects within the Unplanned Care Service including development and review of protocols, documentation, clinical governance, audit training, training research and liaison with NHS 24.
- Participate in the education and training of GP Registrars, students and other clinical professionals as required. Provide mentorship support to the MDT to support professional and Service development.

#### **7a. EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY**

All standard equipment routinely required e.g. Clinical bag, sandpiper bag, including more specialised equipment such as a pulse oximeters etc. will be provided, along with appropriate training. The Dr will be responsible for this equipment and will ensure that repairs or maintenance is requested as and when necessary.

#### **7b. SYSTEMS**

- PCS EMIS
- DOCMAN

- Dictation
- SCI Gateway
- SCI Store
- Microsoft 0365
- Microsoft TEAMS
- DATIX Intranet - Manage Incident Reporting
- Aداstra
- Police Aداstra
- Topas
- Electronic ordering, prescribing etc
- Paper-based and electronic investigation requests
- Safe and secure use of audio visual communication in various forms

For the purpose of video consultations, the system used is Attend Anywhere.

#### **8. ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW OF WORK**

Self-directed within the objectives set by the Medical Director. The post holder will take part in both informal review and formal annual appraisal.

## **9. DECISIONS AND JUDGEMENTS**

GPs who work in a rural location mostly work independently, with minimal supervision. The post holders are expected to:

- Make complex clinical decisions, including differential diagnosis and clinical management, based on an in-depth knowledge and interpretation of clinical and diagnostic investigations.
- Ensure safety of practice at all times by liaising with other professionals and by adherence to national guidance and standards.
- Access advice and support from consultants based in Western Isles Hospital/on call out of hours and EMRS team for transfers.
- Recognise own limitations and the requirement for appropriate referral.
- Justify clinical decision-making with regard to patients' health care, through monitoring of patients' conditions and acting on clinical judgement.
- Act as patients' advocate to ensure their rights are upheld.
- Have freedom to act and make clinical decisions, guided by precedent and clearly-defined divisional policies, protocols/procedures and codes of conduct in accordance with GMC regulations, Clinical and Staff Governance Framework.
- Proactively identify and resolve operational and clinical issues that impinge on service needs/patient safety.
- Assess the patients' complex needs (physical, psychological, social and spiritual) to establish change in condition, inform clinical decision-making and plan care.
- Have the ability to quickly assess and respond to patients' timely needs in emergency situations.

## **10. MOST CHALLENGING/DIFFICULT PARTS OF THE JOB**

The post holders will have a high degree of autonomy in providing patient care within locally agreed and national guided standards. The key challenges will be:

- Providing a wide range of medical expertise in an unscheduled care environment.
- Updating clinical skills and continuing professional development.
- Working at a distance from their peers.
- Maintaining patients with highly complex needs and multiple co morbidities in the community.

- Delivering on prioritised outcome measures.
- Opening and maintaining communication pathways with GP, Consultant and other health care colleagues.
- Coordinating with multiple agencies/services to provide an integrated approach to maintaining patients within the community.
- Coordinating with multiple agencies/services to arrange appropriate patient evacuation

## 11. COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

### Internal Relationships include:

- The WI Management Team including Medical Director.
- Primary Care Associate Medical Director.
- General Practitioners across NHS Western Isles.
- Urgent Care Advanced Nurse Practitioners.
- Community Unscheduled Care Nurse.
- Acute Nursing teams.
- Emergency Nurse Practitioners.
- Members of Primary Care Teams both in-hours and OOH.
- Secondary Care Clinicians.
- Senior Managers and Clinicians across NHS Western Isles.
- other OOH staff including public health.
- Board Members of NHS Western Isles.

### External Relationships include:

- NHS 24.
- Scottish Ambulance Service; including EMRS.
- Social Work Departments.
- The population of NHS Western Isles.

## 12. PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEMANDS OF THE JOB

There is a requirement to deal with situations as they arise. The workload is unpredictable, with priorities changing constantly. Post-holder is required to support any contingency arrangements as appropriate, which may include change of site at short notice.

### Physical

- Occasional exposure to verbal and physical aggression.
- Prolonged light to moderate physical effort, including bending, walking, lifting, pushing and operating equipment is required on most shifts.
- Requirement to work within limited spaces, and to assist immobile patients.
- Requirement to initiate appropriate emergency care.

- Contact with uncontained body fluids.

### **Mental**

- Requirement to use own initiative and make decisions with minimal supervision.
- Requirement for high levels of concentration and for absolute accuracy for clinical tasks, including non-medical prescribing.
- Ability to make clinical decisions, which may affect a patient's care.
- Exposure to frequent direct and indirect interruptions from patients, relatives and the multidisciplinary team.
- Time management.

### **Emotional Effort/Skills**

- Discussing complex clinical issues with the multidisciplinary team and patients.
- Imparting bad news to patients and families.
- Caring for and supporting patients and their families following receipt of bad news.
- Caring for palliative, End of Life patients.
- Caring for surgical patients with complex problems.
- Dealing with patients/carers/relatives with severely challenging behaviour.
- Dealing with distressed/anxious/worried/bereaved patients/carers/staff in a professional and sensitive manner on a daily basis.
- Dealing with complicated family dynamics and high levels of public expectation.
- Dealing with complaints, involving meeting the complainant and seeking to address their concerns, whilst supporting staff involved.

## **13. KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB**

### **Essential**

MBChB (or equivalent primary medical degree)

Full Registration with GMC

Recent evidence of continued academic and professional development.

Registered with a licence to practise at the point of taking up the post.

Accredited GPCCP or emergency Medicine (CCT)

MB ChB

Emergency Medicine

Experience of remote and rural practice and community hospitals

Ability to work as part of the team but also with capabilities to work under own direction

Recent evidence of continued academic and professional development

Self-motivated, able to work without supervision, using own initiative to complete tasks.

Expert communicator, able to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Well-developed influencing skills combined with a facilitative and supportive style of working.

Basics

ALS

NLS

ATLS

EPLS or APLS

ALSO

Community hospital inpatient experience

#### 14. STANDARD ELEMENTS

##### **Confidentiality**

**Comply with all approved NHSWI Policies and Procedures.**

**Comply with NHSWI Communication Strategy and Media Strategy.**

This involves taking the necessary precautions when transmitting information only disclosing it to those who have the right and need to know it.

All personal health information is held, under strict legal and ethical obligations of confidentiality.

NHS staff must follow guidance (NHS Code of Practice on Protecting Patient Confidentiality) before disclosing any patient information. All staff must respect confidentiality of all matters that they may learn relating to their employment, other members of staff, patients and their families.

##### **Health and Safety:**

**Assist in maintaining own and others' health, safety and security.**

This involves:

- a) Complying with Board health and safety policies, procedures and participating in mandatory training.
- b) Maintaining a safe working environment and reporting any issues of concern as appropriate.

NHS Western Isles attaches the greatest importance to the health and safety of its employees. It is the Board policy to do all that is reasonable to prevent personal injury and hazard to health by protecting staff and others including the public from foreseeable hazards compatible with the provision of proper services to patients. The Board expects its entire staff to take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work. More detailed information is given in departmental safety policies where

appropriate.

**Ensure own actions support equality, diversity and rights.**

This involves:

- a) Acting in ways consistent with the Board's policies and procedures.
- b) Treating those you come into contact with equitably and with respect.
- c) Recognising the need for aids or adaptations.

**15. JOB DESCRIPTION AGREEMENT**

A separate job description will need to be signed off by each jobholder to whom the job description applies.

Date:

Date:23.05.2023

Job Holder's Signature:

Head of Department Signature:

# About the Western Isles

The Western Isles, also known as the Outer Hebrides, are a chain of islands which lie 55km off the west coast of Scotland. The islands have a population of around twenty-seven thousand people.

Those who enjoy outdoor activities will find that the islands have a lot to offer. Outdoor pursuits such as horse riding, hiking, and fishing are popular, as are water sports such as canoeing, surfing, and kayaking. Further information about outdoor and sporting activities can be found on the Outer Hebrides Tourism Information website.

The local Council website provides information regarding schools, jobs, bus timetables, and opening times of the leisure centres.

The Board works in partnership with Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP), which means that Key Worker Status will form part of their Housing Allocation Policy. For more information, please visit the HHP website.

If you have any specific queries regarding your move, please do not hesitate to contact your Line Manager, who will do their best to answer them.

## Links

[visitouterhebrides.co.uk](http://visitouterhebrides.co.uk)  
[welovestornoway.com](http://welovestornoway.com)  
[hebrideanhousing.co.uk](http://hebrideanhousing.co.uk)  
[cne-siar.gov.uk](http://cne-siar.gov.uk)

# About NHS Western Isles

The Western Isles Health Board employs over one thousand members of staff, excluding GPs and Dentists. There are three main hospitals situated in the Western Isles:

**Stornoway**—Western Isles Hospital (Ospadal nan Eilean Siar)

**Benbecula**—Uist and Barra Hospital (Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh)

**Barra**—St Brendan's Hospital

There are a number of GP and Dental Practices (11) across the Western Isles. Community nursing services operate out of general practice premises and at community offices in key locations.

Web

[wihb.scot.nhs.uk](http://wihb.scot.nhs.uk)



# Transport Information

The islands are accessible from mainland Scotland by ferry or by plane (please note that both services can be affected in the winter).

There are three airports on the Western Isles: Stornoway Airport, Benbecula Airport, and Barra Airport. The following destinations can be reached from these airports:

**Stornoway Airport**—Benbecula, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Manchester

**Benbecula Airport**—Glasgow, Inverness, Stornoway

**Barra Airport**—Glasgow

All flights to and from the Western Isles are operated by Loganair.

If you live in the Highlands and Islands region of Scotland, you can apply for cheaper air travel through the Air Discount Scheme. Further information on the discounts available can be obtained via the Air Discount Scheme website.

There are nine ferry ports operating in the Western Isles. Routes run between the islands, as well as to and from the mainland. All routes are operated by Calmac. Further information on the individual routes, including timetables and prices, can be obtained via the Calmac website.



## Links

**Ferry Travel:**  
[calmac.co.uk](http://calmac.co.uk)

**Air Travel:**  
[loganair.co.uk](http://loganair.co.uk)

**Car Hire:**  
[carhire-hebrides.co.uk](http://carhire-hebrides.co.uk)  
[lewis-car-rental.com](http://lewis-car-rental.com)

**Air Discount Scheme:**  
[airdiscountscheme.com](http://airdiscountscheme.com)