

Stronsay and Eday Medical Cover

This is an update to confirm arrangements for medical cover on Stronsay on the following dates. We are experiencing a previously unknown situation where there is a national shortage of available locum cover coupled with a high incidence of staff sickness. This is now affecting 4 islands towards the end of July into early August. We wish to reassure you that we continue to work hard to ensure locum cover is in place when required and I wish to thank our staff and you as the community for your support, patience and understanding at the current time.

In Hours

In hours service (defined as 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday)

Patients should therefore continue to phone their normal practice number during the weekdays.

Tuesday 3 August	Dr Cooper Nurse Helen Britten	On island and in surgery until 3.30. Community Nurse Helen Britten On duty all day Out of hours service from mainland from 1800 hours
Wednesday 4 August	Dr Dunne Nurse Helen Britten	Providing Remote support to Nurse from North Ron during day On duty all day Out of hours service from mainland from 1800 hours
Thursday 5 August	Dr Williams	On island in Surgery from 0840

Out of Hours

Out of Hours service (defined as 18:00 to 08:00) will be provided in the first instance through the NHS 24 service

Patients will need to dial '111' telephone number during evenings

Cases will be triaged in the first instance by the NHS 24 clinicians, and if any cases require a patient to be reviewed locally these will be passed to the local Orkney Out of Hours GP team situated in The Balfour. The on call GP will have access to a direct number to contact the nurse on island or Scottish Ambulance Service if required.

Emergency Response

Patients should dial "999" if it is an emergency situation

Local fire services, community nursing, and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) have been briefed regarding the situation on-island and will be prepared to respond in an emergency. SAS have been notified to be on high alert in event of any incidents occurring on Stronsay during this period, to ensure priority assistance will be provided and will update the first responder service.

Maureen Firth Head of Primary Care Services