

Chief Executive's Service

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Humza Yousaf MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary

National Care Service Island Communities Impact Assessment

I refer to the Scottish Government's current consultation on its proposals to develop new legislation for a National Care Service. I note that the consultation is due to close on 2 November 2021. I confirm that Orkney Islands Council intends to submit a response to the consultation by or before 2 November 2021.

In the meantime, I confirm that there was discussion of the Scottish Government's plans for a National Care Service at a Special General Meeting of the Council on 15 September 2021 in the context of a Notice of Motion that had been lodged by the Council Leader.

I attach a link to the agenda, a download of the Report (Item 5) and an audio recording of the Item:

[Special General Meeting of the Council - 15 September 2021 \(orkney.gov.uk\)](https://www.orkney.gov.uk/2021/09/15/special-general-meeting-of-the-council-15-september-2021)

During the discussion of the Motion, there was recognition of the significant investment that the Council and our partners have made in provision of care services in our community over decades, and the dedication and commitment of the staff who are delivering these crucial frontline services.

It was also noted that the Orkney Islands model of care and strong partnership working has been developed and modified as local needs have changed and is significantly different to many areas of Scotland.

In addition, the Councillors noted the Council's extant position of supporting the establishment of a Single Authority Model for public services delivery in Orkney in the context of the current Local Governance Review in Scotland and that the Council remains committed to community empowerment and local democracy. The Council is concerned that some versions of the National Care Service proposal could diminish, rather than enhance, the community, fiscal and functional empowerment that the Council seeks.

Therefore, in accordance with the terms of the Leader's Motion, a Resolution was passed by the Council that the Council would write to seek your confirmation that a full island communities impact assessment will be undertaken, as required by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, before any legislation for a National Care Service is drafted. I am hereby writing to seek that confirmation from you on behalf of the Council.

I confirm that I would therefore be grateful to receive your confirmation that a full island communities impact assessment will be duly undertaken.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

John W Mundell, OBE
Interim Chief Executive