

## Interim Chief Executive

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Date: 18 January 2023

Ms. Siobhian Brown MSP  
Convener  
COVID-19 Recovery Committee

**Sent via email:**

[Covid19.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:Covid19.committee@parliament.scot)

Dear Ms. Brown,

Thank you for your letter, dated 17 January 2023, concerning the COVID-19 Recovery Committee inquiry into long COVID and post COVID syndrome. Following your request for further information from NHS Orkney, please see below feedback from Dr Kevin Fox, NHS Orkney Long Covid Lead:

- *Details on the current services available including information on how the Scottish Government funding has been used:*

NHS Orkney have one fixed-term Physiotherapist (0.5WTE) providing assessment, support and exercise-based rehabilitation. This individual has access to speciality Physicians as needed e.g. for cardiac or respiratory specific complications.

NHS Orkney broadly follow SIGN guidance, adjusted to our rural location and limited resources.

- *Any barriers to service development and provision:*

NHS Orkney is a small Board with limited facilities e.g. no on-site respiratory physician and limited lung function testing. Like all other Boards in Scotland, our therapy services are in high demand with limited capacity, despite this, we believe we are able to offer a guideline based service.

- *Any examples of good practice:*

Our physiologist provides excellent personalised, evidence based, support. The individual has readily available access to cardiology advice and cardiac investigations where necessary. While, as a single provider he is stretched, the personal relationships he develops are therapeutically important.

- *Details of future plans for long COVID service provision in the short and medium term:*

NHS Orkney have received partial support for ongoing funding of the physiology post for 2023/24. NHS Orkney will be seeking support from the Scottish Government for the service, through the Long COVID Funds, failing this we will seek direction from the IJB who are accountable for commissioning local services.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Dickson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Dickson  
**Interim Chief Executive**