

## Chief Executive

**The Balfour**  
Forelands Road  
Kirkwall  
Orkney KW15 1NZ  
[www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk)



Dr Susan Payne  
Via email: [sue.payne@gov.scot](mailto:sue.payne@gov.scot)

Date: 7 June 2019

Tel: 01856 888271  
Enquiries to: Gerry O'Brien  
Email: [gerry.o'brien@nhs.net](mailto:gerry.o'brien@nhs.net)

Dear Dr Payne,

Our process for systematically reviewing and utilising the data from the Atlas of Variation in NHS Orkney is evolving. My Medical Director and Director of Public Health are working closely with our Realistic Medicine Lead, Jay Wragg, to engage with staff in the use of the Atlas. This engagement has included our professional advisory committees to the Board.

Mr Wragg presented the first formal report on the Atlas to our Quality and Safety committee on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019. A high level extract of the data was taken to highlight the areas where we were outliers, and more detailed graphs presented to the committee to show our performance over the available date ranges. The Quality and Safety Group are keen that at a future meeting we explore in some depth those areas where NHS Orkney appears to be an outlier. The Group were particularly keen that we do not rely on historical perceptions of why we may have variation in the system.

Christina Bichan, Quality of Care Lead, will be working with the Director of Public Health and Medical Director to agree a timetable for data to be further reviewed at the Quality and Safety Group.

The Quality and Safety meeting will be our focal point for discussion of the Atlas of Variation from a governance perspective, with reporting from there to Clinical and Care Governance committee and onwards to the NHS Orkney Board. We are continuing to refine our processes of engagement and discussion prior to reports reaching this governance committee, but have in place this initial governance route.

For updates on the use of the Atlas please liaise with our realistic medicine lead, Mr Jay Wragg.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry O'Brien'.

Gerry O'Brien  
**Chief Executive**

Cc Dr Louise Wilson, Director of Public Health  
Mr Marthinus Roos, Medical Director



*Our community, we care, you matter....*

NHS Orkney Board Headquarters:  
The Balfour, Forelands Road,  
Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1NZ  
Chair: Ian Kinniburgh  
Chief Executive: Gerry O'Brien



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD WINNER 2018

Proudly supporting those who serve.  
Record number of winners.