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**Shetland NHS Board**

Name

Address

Date 15 July 2022

Your Ref

Our Ref MD/pm/2022

Enquiries to Michael Dickson

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Dear

Fair Isle Ferry & Infrastructure Levelling up Fund Bid

NHS Shetland alongside Shetland Island Council worked with the remote island communities about what mattered to them and unsurprisingly healthcare was identified as priority to ensure the islands are vibrant and sustainable. To deliver high quality care the NHS needs robust transport links to function as an essential safeguard for our isolated communities. We are heavily dependent on these links to allow staff to travel to Fair Isle to provide care, patient travel to the mainland of Shetland and urgent evacuations when air travel is not possible.

The current ferry precludes the use of ambulance and patient transport vehicles due to limited capacity and concerns about winching a vehicle that contains fragile clinical equipment.

It should be noted that NHS staff travelling to Fair Isle flag the current fragile transport links as significant concern and they have been identified by prospective applicants to Fair Isle based NHS roles as a barrier to taking up employment.

I hope this approach will be considered in this light to ensure NHS Shetland is best able to provide high quality care to the community in Fair Isle.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Dickson', written over a light grey circular stamp.

MICHAEL DICKSON

Chief Executive

NHS Shetland / NHS Orkney