

Integration Scheme Consultation

Responses Summary

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and NHS Western Isles launched the Integration Scheme Consultation on 8 April 2026 via a [press release](#) issued by the Comhairle's communications team. The press release was sent to local and national media as well as public sector partners, CNES staff and Members. The distribution to press was supported by the advertisement of the consultation on social media and the Comhairle's website.

17 individuals provided responses to the consultation, all responses were received through the provided online form. 7 responses were blank; the other 10 responses are included in full below.

The consultation was the subject of media coverage. This coverage included an article which implied that the consultation was part of wider work on public service reform, including the ongoing work on Single Authority Models. The Comhairle contacted the publication to ask that this article was amended to correct the mistake and avoid public misinformation. While the article was changed it still included a reference to wider work on PSR. Some of the submissions received appeared to give views on Public Service Reform/ Single Authority Models rather than the provided Integration Scheme document. It can be assumed that these responses were in part influenced by the mentioned article.

Consultation Response 1

The CNES shouldn't be anywhere near the NHS. It is not a competent authority.

Consultation Response 2

This model is a huge waste of money. No obvious benefits other than an additional layer, paying for staff with no obvious function just to pay lip service to a model introduced 12 years ago. Now outdated.

Consultation Response 3

This integration scheme has not worked in any other area! Why on earth do you think it'll work here? Look at lessons learned and don't do this backward scheme.

Consultation Response 4

The single Islands authority as proposed by CNES, would be catastrophic to our islands. Yes the Integrated Joint Partnership can work, if handled correctly, however it is yet to prove successful to the public. Giving CNES total power over NHS Western Isles would be a huge mistake, judging as the council are in so much debt, it is seen as a money grabbing scheme by many in the public. An alternative would be for the NHS to take over the health and social care completely, which would ease pressures on other services such as bed blocking and the lack of care home capacity.

Staff are also going to be against having to move to CNES terms and conditions, which are far weaker than the NHS's employment terms. There will be pushback from staff and unions about this proposal!

Consultation Response 5

No integration. Work properly together for the benefit of our community as you should already

Consultation Response 6

It is an absolute travesty that an organisation that at best provides services to an abjectly mediocre standards thinks it can provide a high-quality health service (or indeed any kind of health service). The Comhairle has refused to fund anything like a suitable air link between Stornoway and Benbecula, social care services are almost broken - largely due to unimaginative and uninterested councillors. Do home carers still have to provide their own trousers? Will nurses have to do the same? The work trousers issue speaks volumes about what the council seem to regard as menial home care staff. The pay is poor, especially when you consider the anti-social hours and the need to have a car. Speaking of which, this council won't grit roads at night despite home carers being out and about to look after the most vulnerable. As are nurses and doctors ... but roads are gritted early on Sunday morning so that councillors can get to church presumably. Our roads are poor as are our streetlights. Why did the council not invest some of their reserves into Blar Buidhe when it closed? All we hear about are budget cuts, the only budget not being cut is members expenses and allowances, this was always the case. We currently have very high-quality health services, despite the best efforts of the Comhairle. NHSWI is not a cash cow and should not be plundered and asset stripped to prop up CNES services and vanity projects. I'm mystified as to why CNES thinks it should take over HHP, there were very good reasons why housing was removed from local authority control back in the day - under investment, repair budgets being cut so that money could be used elsewhere. Further education colleges were removed from local authority control for the same reason. I genuinely cannot think of one high quality service provided by CNES. I am dumbfounded that given the track record of lack of success that our MSPs think this is a good idea, presumably it is a political sop for years of underfunding from Edinburgh.

Integration has been expensive and achieved nothing, except jobs for the boys in Sandwick Road. All money that could have been spent in social care, reducing our delayed discharges and helping people live happily with comfort and dignity in their later years. I don't expect any notice will be taken of negative responses to this hideous proposal but at least I will feel I tried. (which is rather more than CnES have ever done)

Consultation Response 7

I fully oppose any integration. The council are not a competent authority and should never be anywhere near our NHS. The fact you are considering this is outrageous.

Consultation Response 8

The article is completely inaccurate in trying to represent what it thinks the Integration Joint Board consultation is about. The consultation is about the IJB Scheme of Integration which has nothing to do with the current discussions about Public Sector Reform. Very unhelpful and misleading.

Consultation Response 9

There has been NO consultation with NHS Western Isles staff- this is the first i have heard about this - no communication from management to staff.

Consultation Response 10

The scheme is good.