

NHS HIGHLAND WATER STEWARDSHIP POLICY

NHS Highland understands that water is a key resource for the Highland community and needs to be used responsibly with equitable sharing by end users, respecting the diversity of needs. We recognise that the pristine water of the Highlands is integral to the world wide recognition of Highland produce. Protecting and conserving water resources through excellent water management practices and governance systems are a priority for NHS Highland and is integral to our commitment towards water stewardship.

The Direct Water Impacts of NHS Highlands results mostly from the use of water within hospital sites, health centres, General Practice and Dental Practice. Indirect impacts results from the water used in its retail outlets.

Maintaining Water Quality: NHS Highland will strive to preserve the quality of water in communities where we operate, to ensure that our water effluent does not adversely affect people or the environment; and to work with The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Water and the Highland Council to ensure we meet all local water quality requirements. NHS Highland will also work with recognised third parties to embed international water quality standards within their estate.

In accordance with NHS Highland Environmental Policy, we commit to:

Minimising the impact from operations by monitoring and measuring water use and ensuring that wastewater is fully treated to levels that sustain aquatic life. (NHS Highland will endeavour to minimise and where possible remove any hazardous substances from entering water supply)

Assess the future water availability and reduce environmental and social risks linked to our use of water.

Work with suppliers to understand the water footprint of raw materials, in particular agricultural products associated with the delivery of renal dialysis.

Engage communities to increase awareness and protection of water resources, through local and international partnership programmes.

Contribute to the development of water standards and policies, locally and internationally, in partnership with key stakeholders.

Work with organisations and initiatives such as the Alliance for Water Stewardship and Healthcare without Harm.

Share and promote water stewardship practices.

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