



Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators 2023/24 – Linked to Priorities in the Council Plan 2023 to 2028

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	Ranked in the top eight Scottish Councils.
	Ranked between nine and 16.
	Ranked in the bottom 16.

Priority: Growing Our Economy

ECON 12a – Claimant Count as a Percentage of Working Age Population.

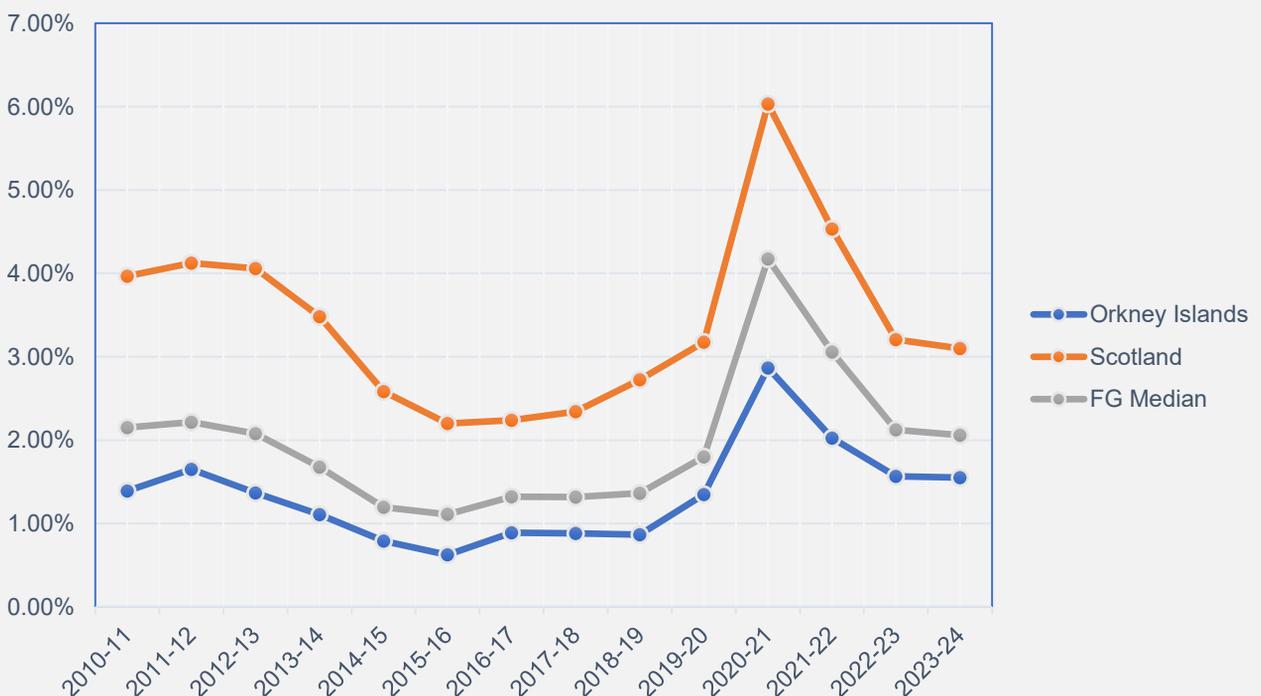
The low claimant count is linked to the very high employment rate which is a result of multiple job opportunities and an aging population meaning fewer people in the labour market.

Shortage of housing contributes to this as it can be difficult for people to move to Orkney to take up job opportunities.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
2.9%	1.55%	2.5%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	1	✓
2023/24	1	

CLAIMANT COUNT AS A PERCENTAGE OF WORKING AGE POPULATION



Priority: Growing Our Economy

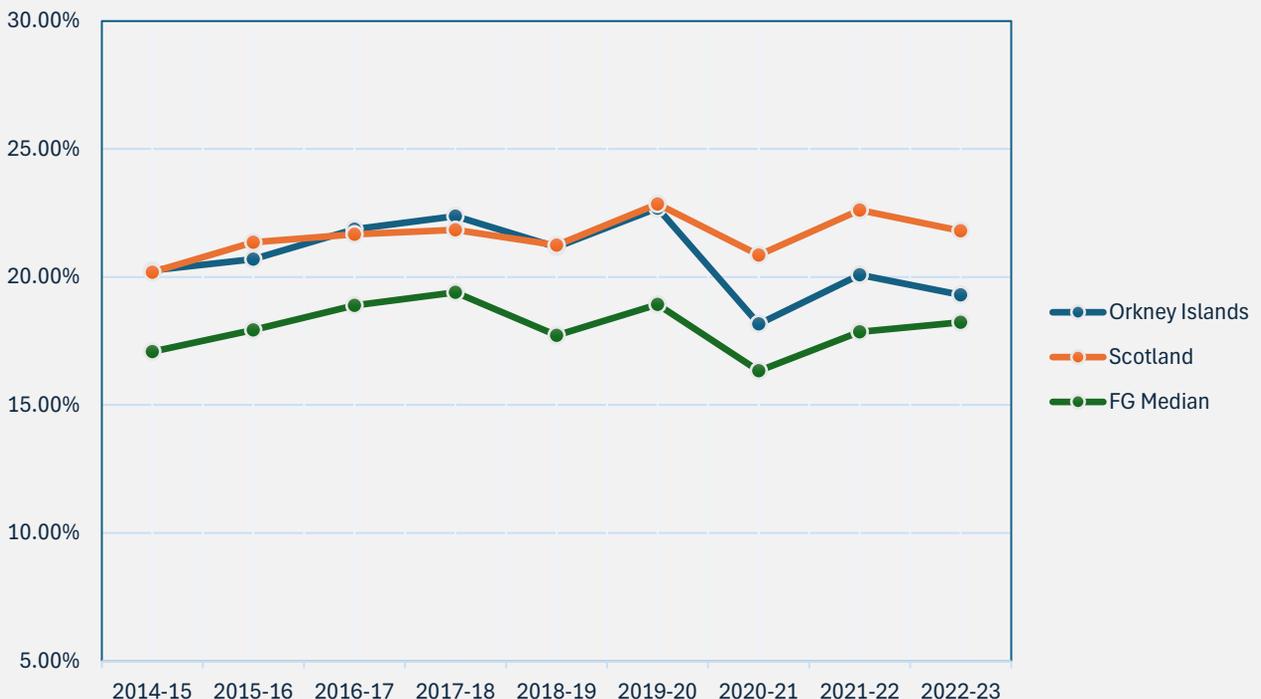
CHN24 – Percentage of Children living in Poverty (after housing costs)

Awaiting further update on this PI. Last information is 22/23

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2022/23	Target 2027/28
18.16%	19.3%	9%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2021/22	7	✓
2022/23	6	

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY (AFTER HOUSING COSTS)



Priority: Growing Our Economy

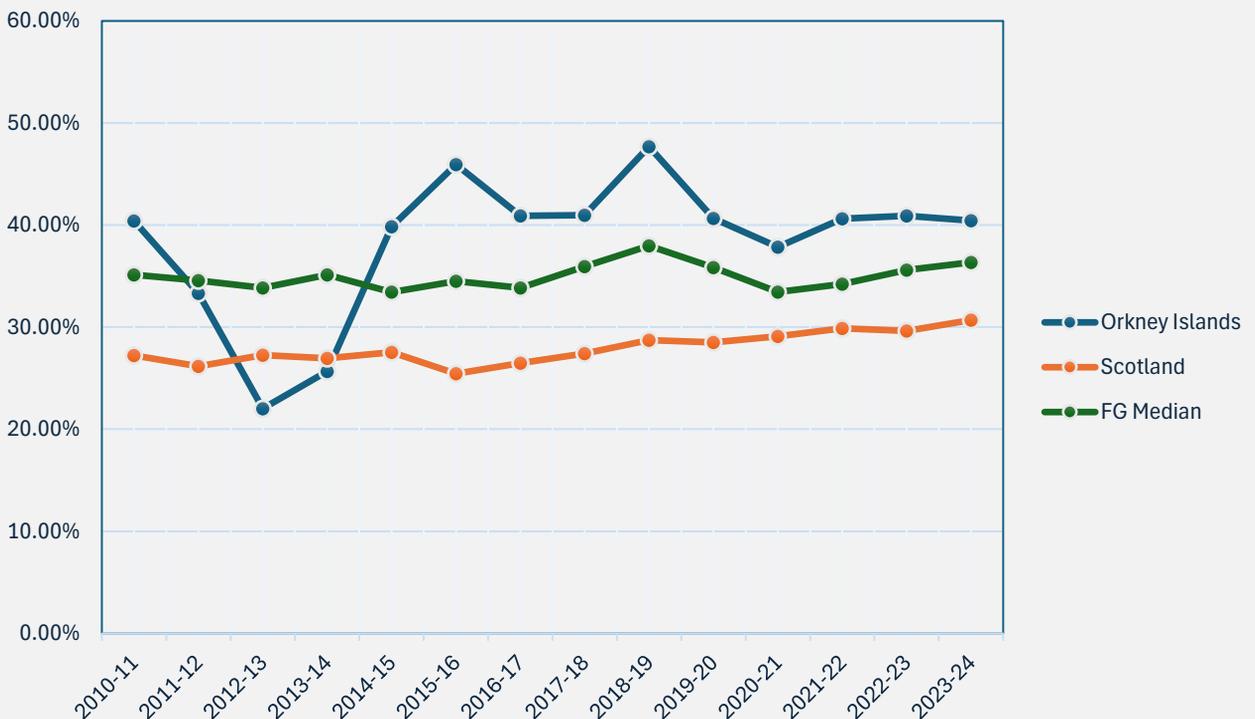
ECON4 – Percentage of Procurement Spent on Local Enterprises.

The Council has a statutory duty to achieve best value in carrying out its functions, including the procurement of goods and services. On occasions the specification of a service or product required by the Council is able only to be met by suppliers based outwith Orkney.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
37.85%	40.44%	45%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	3	✓
2023/24	4	

PERCENTAGE OF PROCUREMENT SPENT ON LOCAL ENTERPRISES



Priority: Growing Our Economy

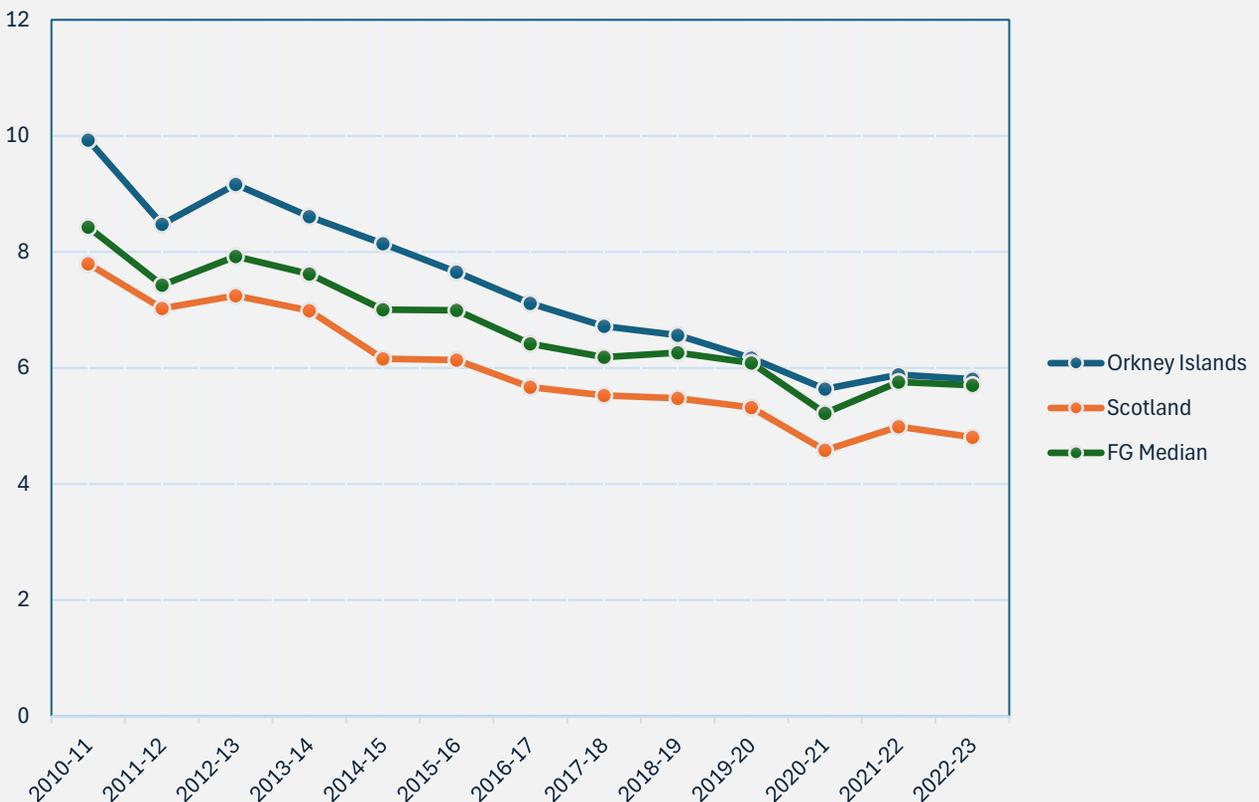
CLIM1 – CO₂ Emissions Area-Wide per Capita.

We are working in collaboration to develop projects to minimise emissions of the three Island Groups. Works on new network interconnector will enable more renewable projects in Orkney. The statistics for these indicators are reported annually but the data provided is always for the previous year so runs behind, the data for this indicator reflects the status for the period 2022/23. The data for 2023/2024 will be published in June 2025.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2022/23	Target 2027/28
5.64	5.80	9

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2021/22	24	
2022/23	24	

CO₂ EMISSIONS AREA WIDE PER CAPITA



Priority: Growing Our Economy

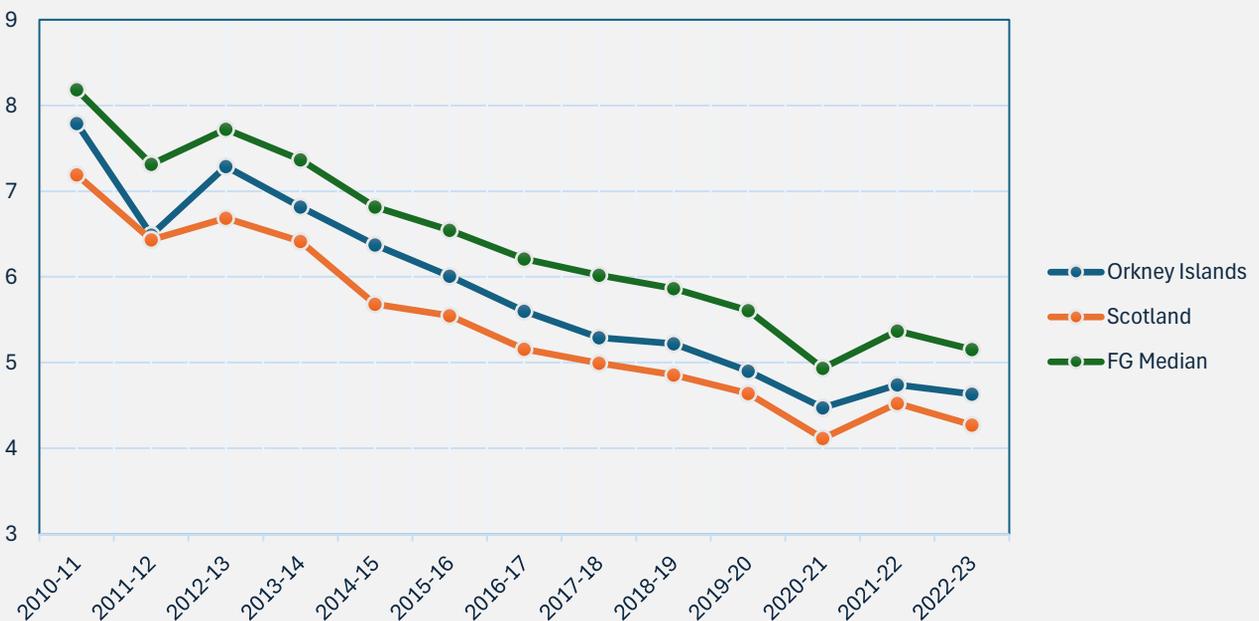
CLIM2 – CO₂ Emissions within Scope of Local Authority per Capita.

Completion of the St Andrews primary school extension and conversion of the heating system from oil to Ground Source Heat Pumps. Progress on the external insulation of Stromness Academy. Completion of the Orkney Library re-lighting with LED and improvements to the building air tightness testing. The statistics for these indicators are reported annually but the data provided is always for the previous year so runs behind, the data for this indicator reflects the status for the period 2022/23.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2022/23	Target 2027/28
4.47	4.63	4

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2021/22	19	
2022/23	18	

CO₂ EMISSIONS AREA WIDE: EMISSIONS WITHIN SCOPE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY PER CAPITA



Priority: Strengthening Our Community

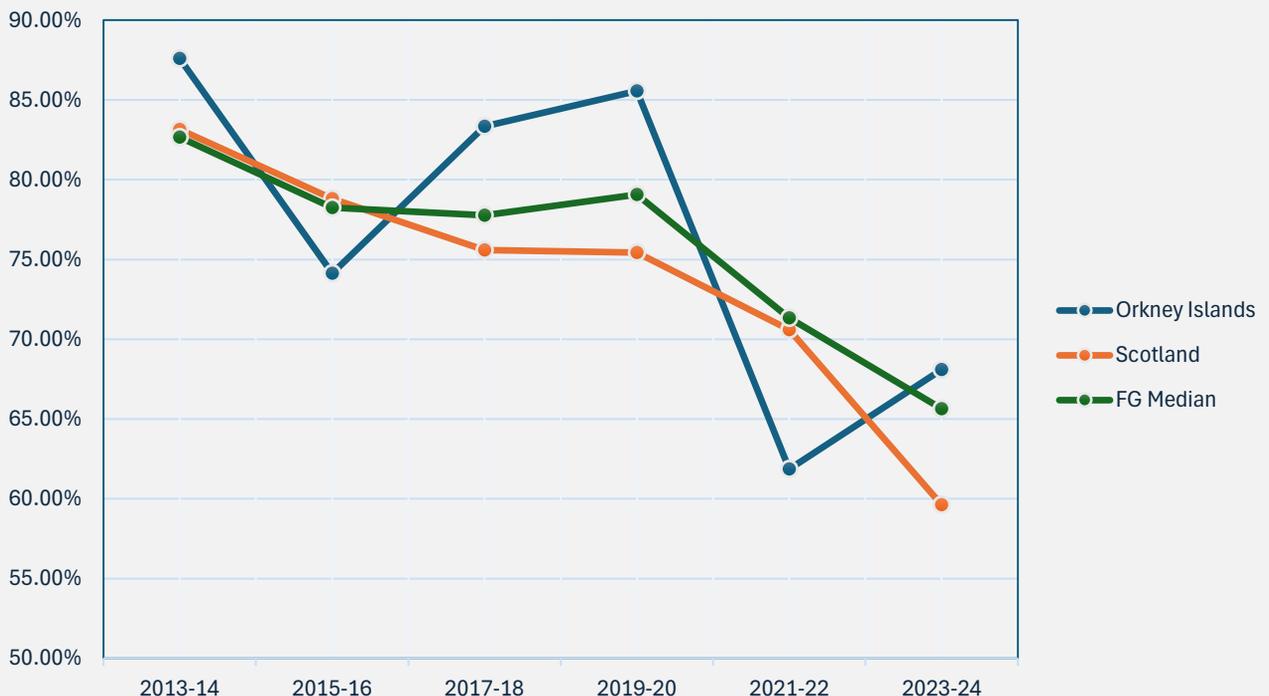
SW4d – Adults Supported at Home Who Agree that They had a Say in How Their Care, Help or Support was Provided.

This is an improvement on last recording of 61.9% in 21/22. We have not been able to identify concrete reasons for the post pandemic drop however we have paid particular attention to observations made during reviews and reasons for complaints

Baseline 2019/20	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
85.56%	68.09%	93%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2021/22	30	✓
2023/24	4	

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS SUPPORTED AT HOME WHO AGREE THEY HAD A SAY IN HOW THEIR HELP, CARE OR SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED



Priority: Strengthening Our Community

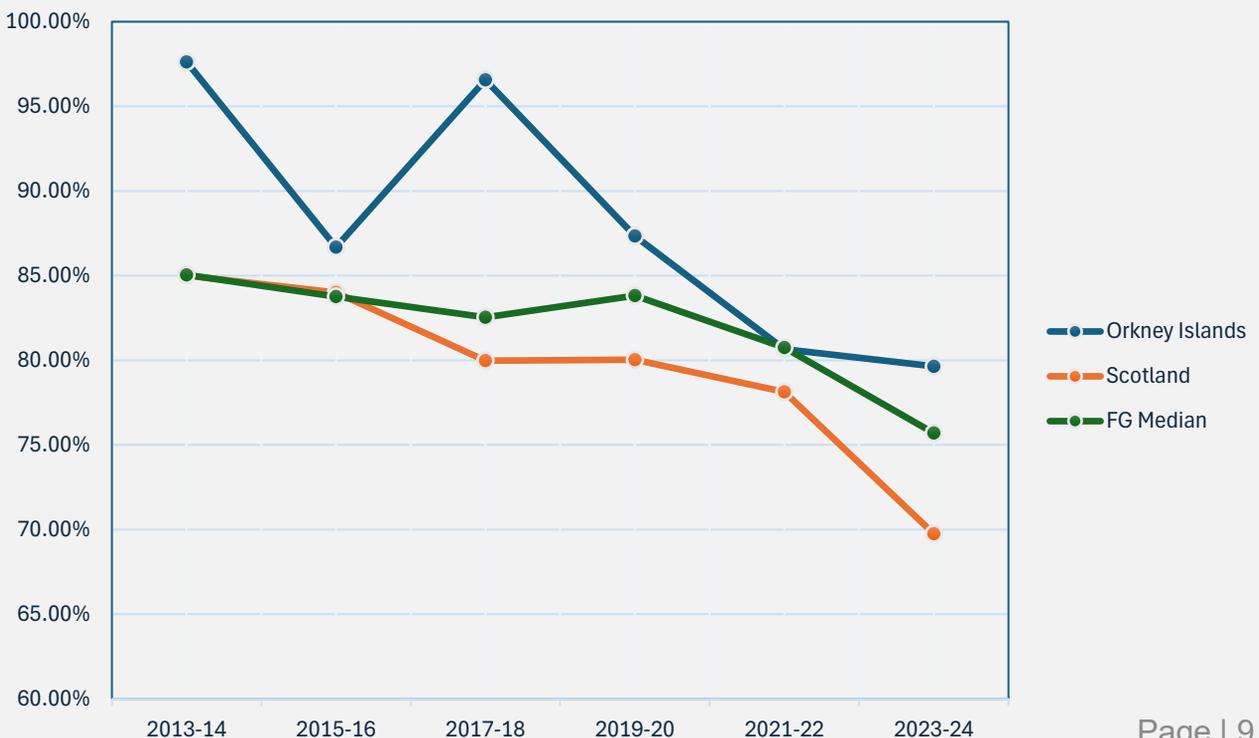
SW4b – Adults Supported at Home Who Agree that Their Services had an Impact in Improving or Maintaining Their Quality of Life.

This is a percentage point less than last year however we have regained our rank of second. It is nonetheless a drop and we will endeavour to understand better the decline.

Baseline 2019/20	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
87.33%	79.64%	93%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2021/22	9	✓
2023/24	2	

ADULTS SUPPORTED AT HOME WHO AGREE THEIR CARE HAD AN IMPACT IN IMPROVING OR MAINTAINING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE



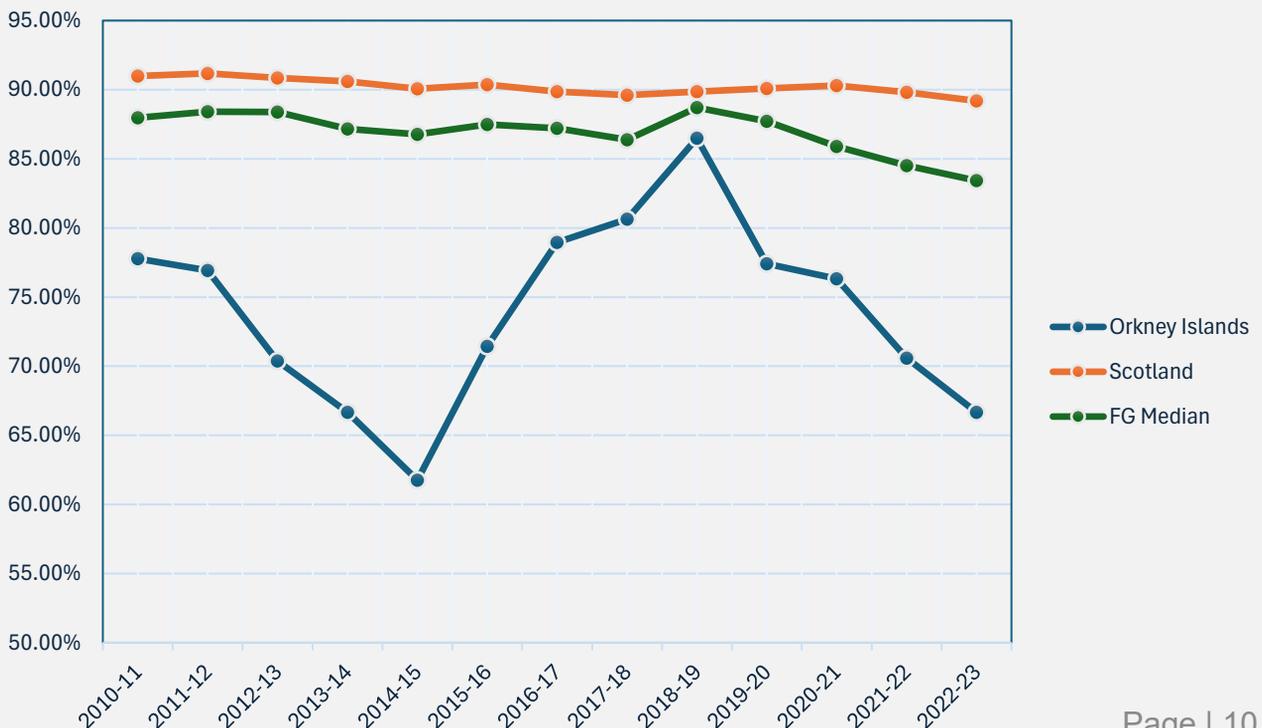
Priority: Strengthening Our Community

CHN9 – Balance of Care for Looked After Children: Percentage of Children Being Looked After in the Community.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2022/23	Target 2027/28
76.3%	66.7%	85%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2021/22	32	
2022/23	32	

BALANCE OF CARE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BEING LOOKED AFTER IN THE COMMUNITY



Priority: Strengthening Our Community

CHN4 – Percentage of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5.

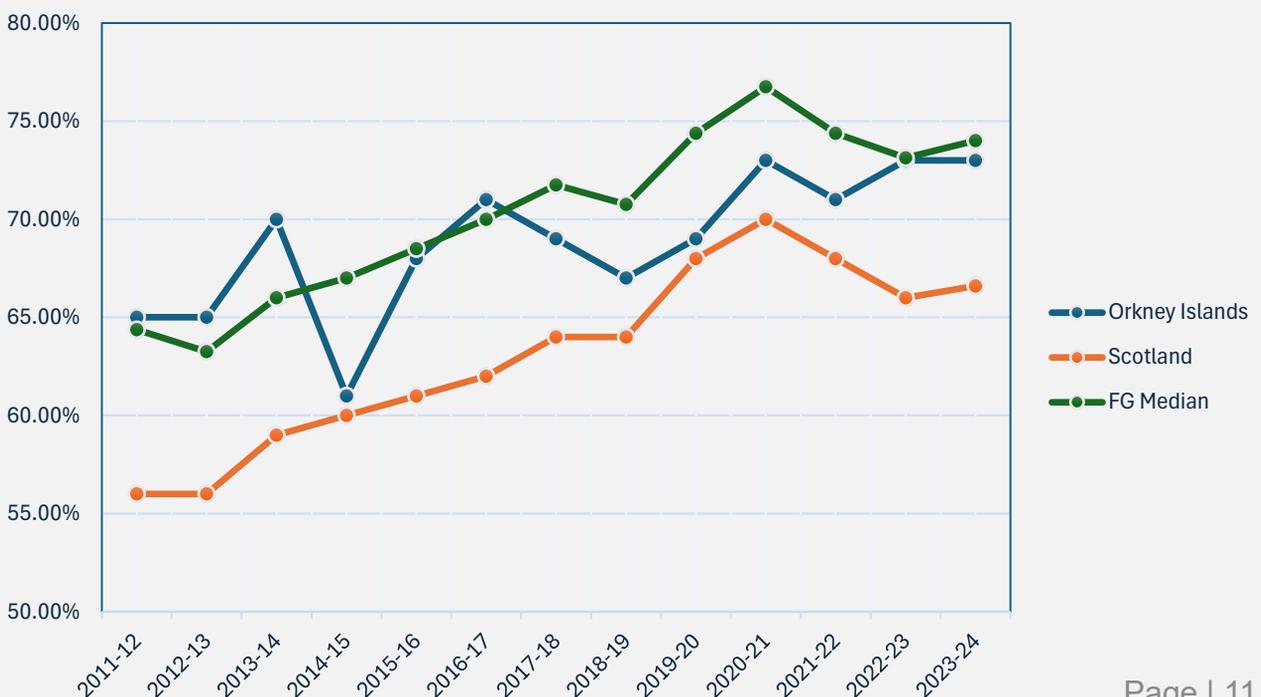
The general trend for Orkney school leavers' attainment of at least 5 level 5 awards is positive.

There remains significant focus on the tracking and monitoring of achievement within the senior phase with the aim to achieve our 80% target.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2022/23	Target 2027/28
73%	73%	80%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	4	✓
2023/24	5	

PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS GAINING 5+ AWARDS AT LEVEL 5



Priority: Strengthening Our Community

CHN11 – Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations.

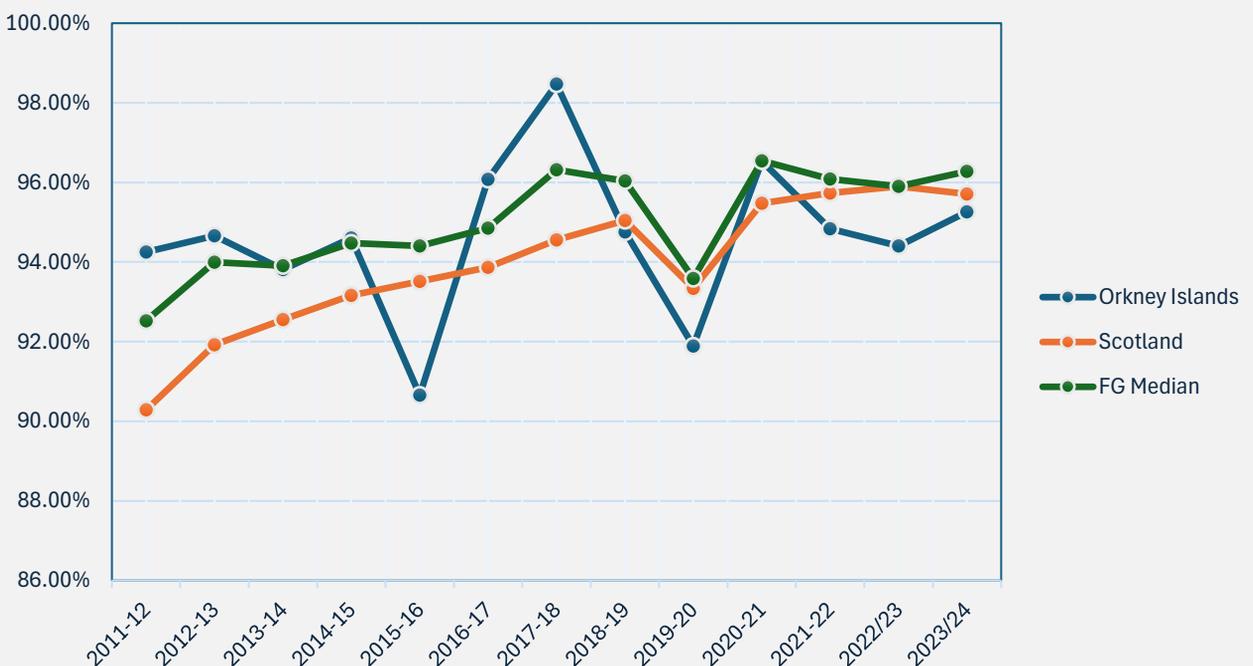
The proportion of school leavers entering positive destinations has risen from 94.4% in 22/23 to 95.3% in 23/24, with a consequent rise in Orkney’s rank, following the slight decline in 2022/23.

With the small numbers in Orkney and the high performance across the whole of Scotland, one young person can make a significant difference in our ranking.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
96.53%	95.26%	98%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	28	
2023/24	23	

PROPORTION OF PUPILS ENTERING POSITIVE DESTINATIONS



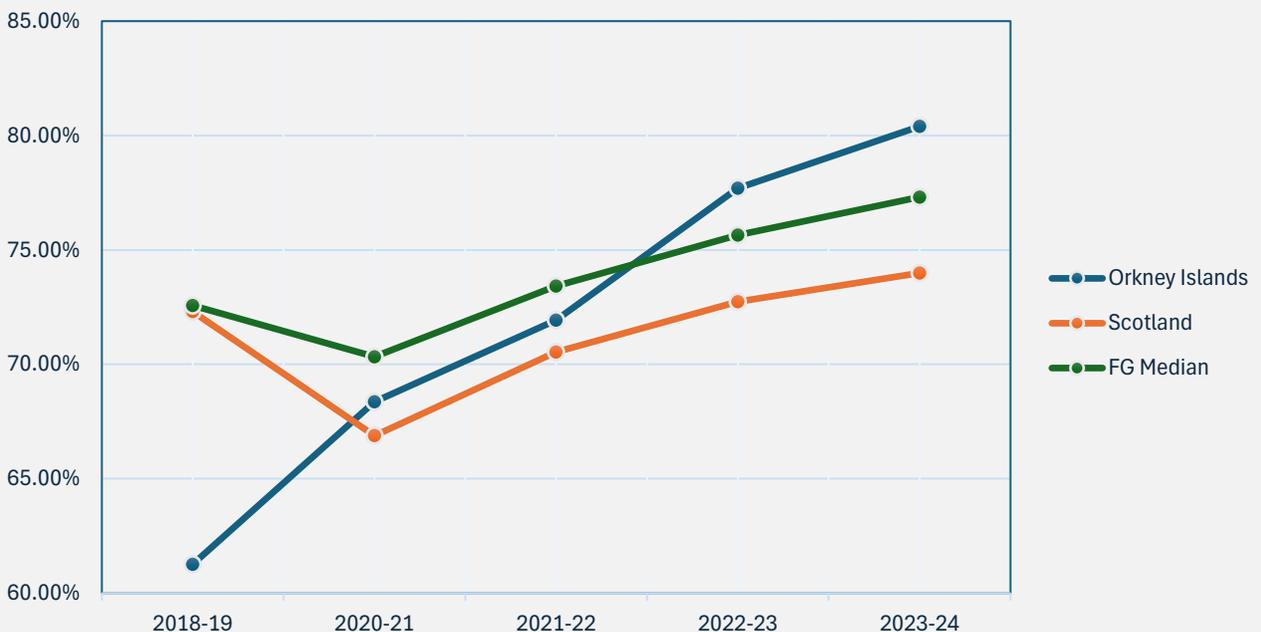
Priority: Strengthening Our Community

CHN13a – Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 Pupils Combined Achieving Expected Curriculum for Excellence Level in Literacy.

The most up-to-date data will be available in June 2025. We continue to display strong performance against this indicator which has improved year-on-year and we are working to secure further improvement.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
68.4%	80.4%	85%
Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	5	✓
2023/24	3	

PERCENTAGE OF P1, P4 AND P7 PUPILS COMBINED ACHIEVING EXPECTED CFE LEVEL IN LITERACY



Priority: Strengthening Our Community

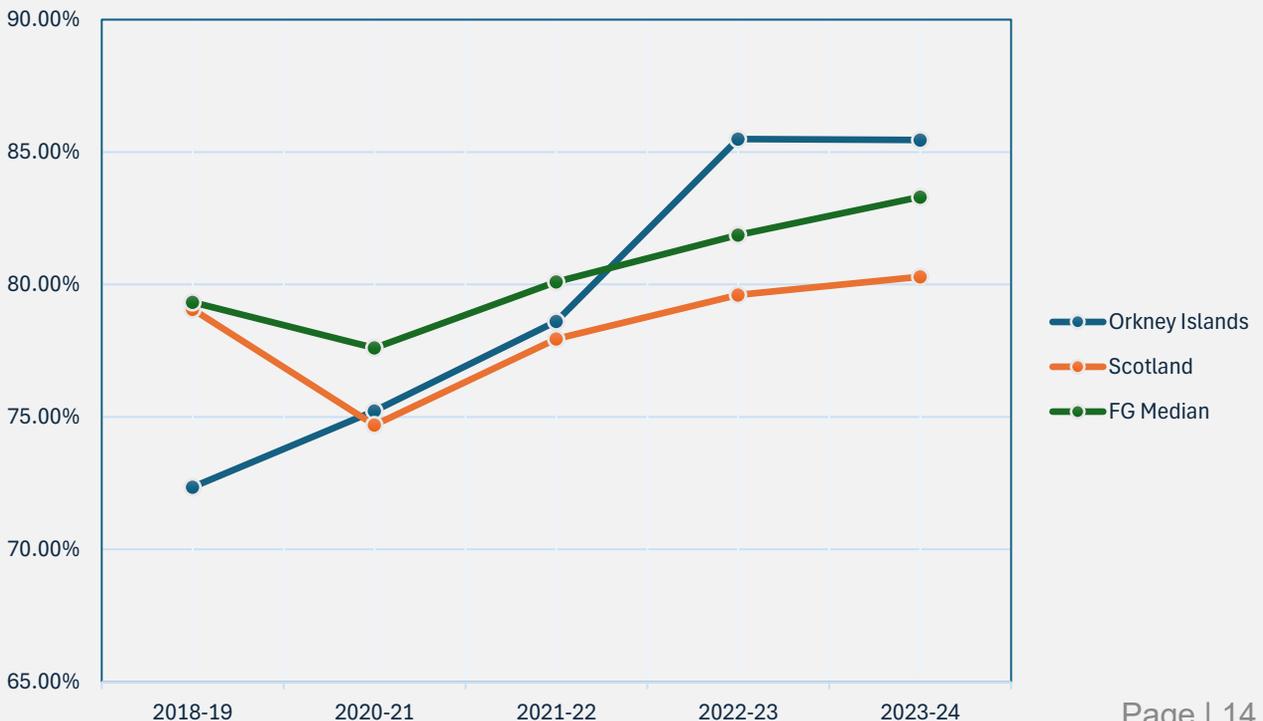
CHN13b – Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 Pupils Combined Achieving Expected Curriculum for Excellence Level in Numeracy.

The most up-to-date data will be available in June 2025. We have seen continuous improvement in this indicator and we are working to ensure that we can improve standards further.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
75.2%	85.5%	90%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	3	✓
2023/24	3	

PERCENTAGE OF P1, P4 AND P7 PUPILS COMBINED ACHIEVING EXPECTED CFE LEVEL IN NUMERACY



Priority: Strengthening Our Community

CHN19b – School Attendance Rate for Looked After Children.

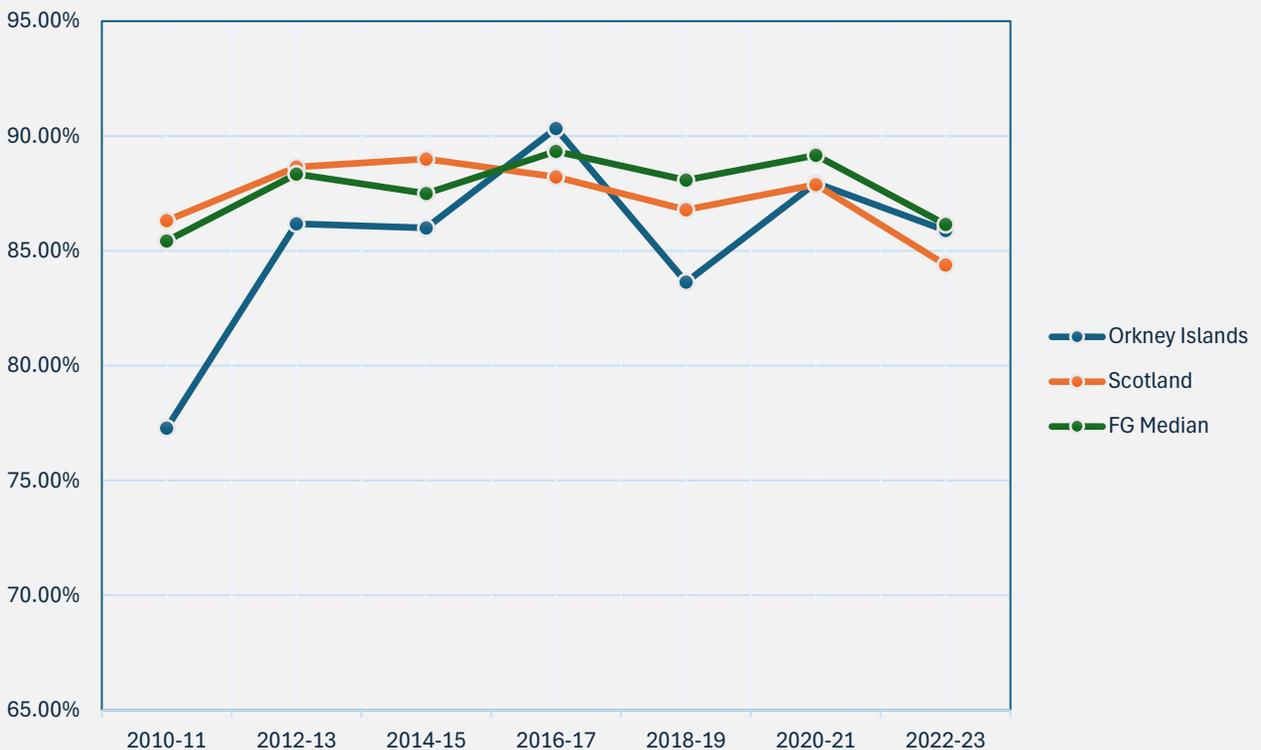
The 2022/23 rate for Orkney is equal to the Family Group average and above the Scotland rate.

Improving the attendance of care experienced children and young people is one of our priority stretch aims.

Baseline 2018/19	Performance 2022/23	Target 2027/28
83.64%	85.88%	90%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2020/21	18	
2022/23	11	

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATE - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN



Priority: Developing Our Infrastructure

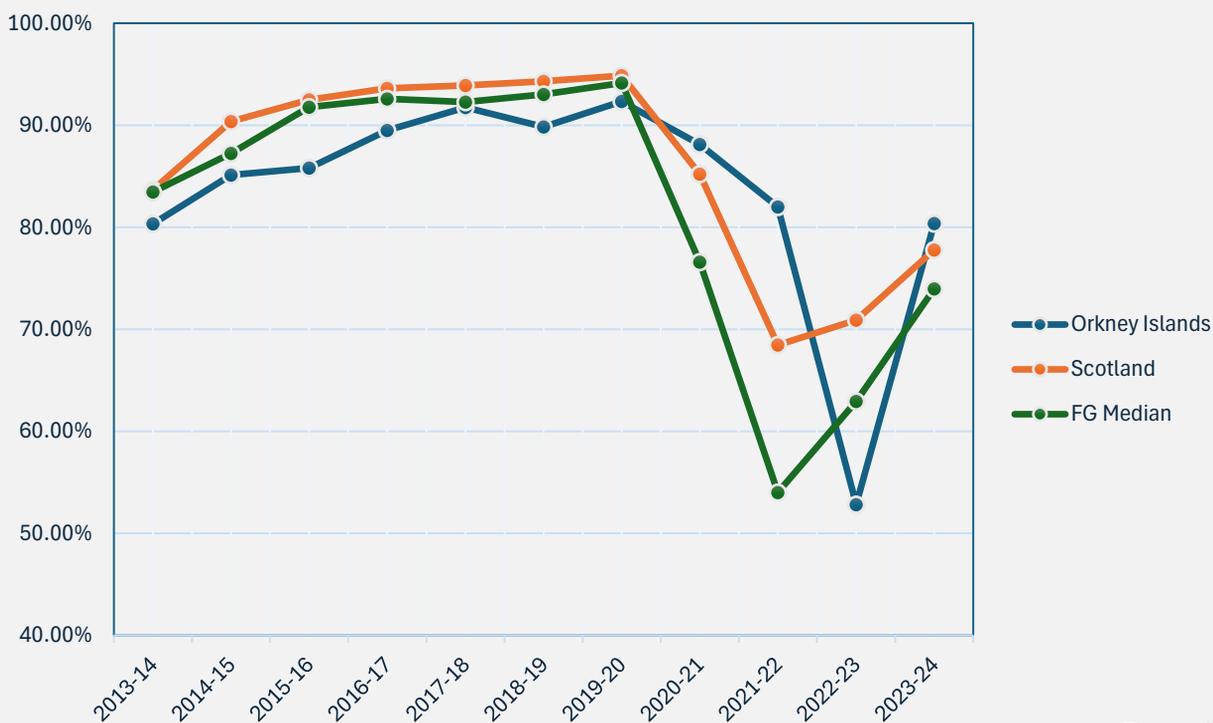
HSN3 – Percentage of Council Dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Quality Standards.

In 2023-2024, there was significant progress in the percentage of properties meeting the standard, with 80.38% of our properties achieving compliance, up from 52.82% in the previous year. In 2022/23 issues had been identified with our electrical installation condition reports (EICR). Following the implementation of a focused improvement plan, 99.2% of our properties held valid EICR certificates by 31 March 2024. Additionally, interlinked smoke alarms had been successfully installed in 98.2% of our properties. We continue to work closely with our tenants and contractors to address any residual issues.

Baseline 2021/22	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
81.99%	80.38%	90%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	20	
2023/24	11	

PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS MEETING SHQS



Priority: Developing Our Infrastructure

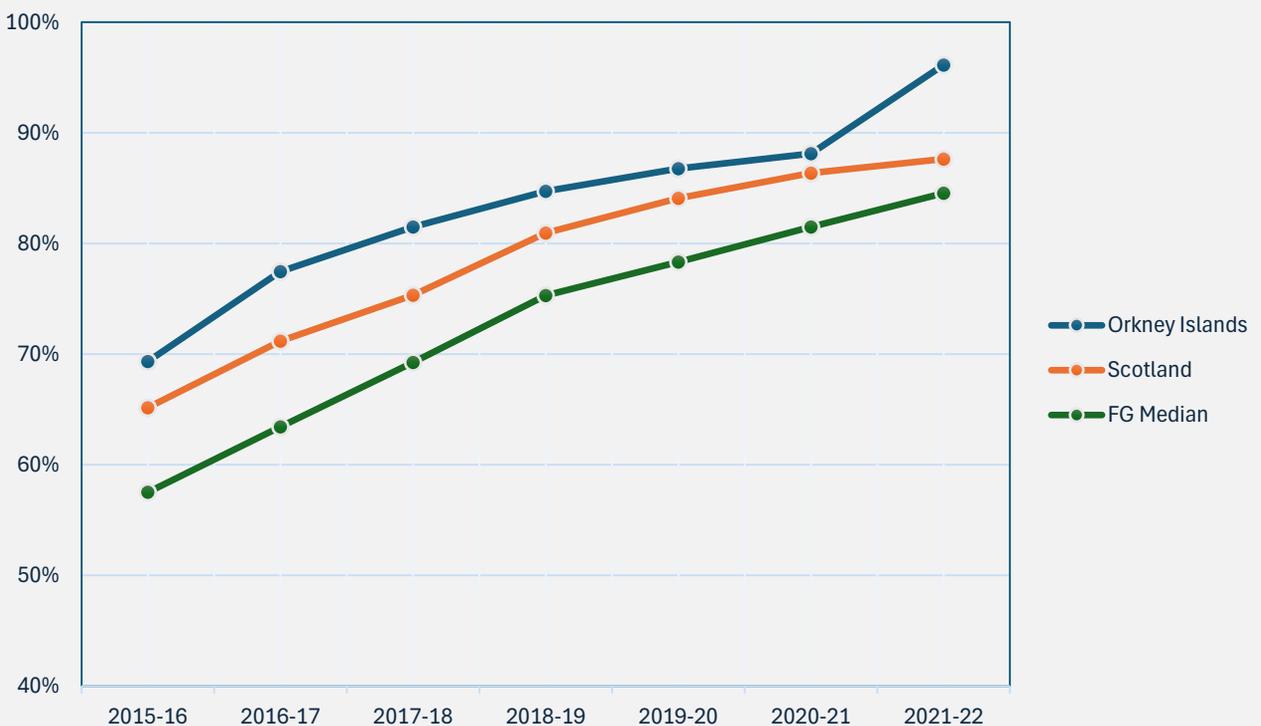
HSN5 – Percentage of Council Dwellings that are Energy Efficient.

Out of 1025 properties, 957 met the standard* on 31 March 2025. Of the remaining 68 properties, 34 were exempt or out of scope due to factors such as disproportionate cost or those in abeyance because the tenant has refused works to the property.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2022/23	Target 2027/28
88.12%	94%	90%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2021/22	6	
2022/23		

PERCENTAGE OF COUNCIL DWELLINGS THAT ARE ENERGY EFFICIENT



*See additional information on page 22

Priority: Transforming Our Council

CORP-ASSET1 – Proportion of Operational Buildings that are Suitable for their Current Use.

2024 figures for the suitability indicators are 90.8% if looked at from the point of numbers, but 93.94% if area-based e.g. Cursiter Quarry is now recorded as 9 assets, whereas before it was recorded as one. Properties scoring* 'D' are the Longhope Pier Weighbridge Building, two sheds, a store and the closed Former Papdale Halls of Residence.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
87.95%	90.82%	90%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	13	▲
2023/24	13	

PROPORTION OF OPERATIONAL BUILDINGS THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR THEIR CURRENT USE



*See additional information on page 22

Priority: Transforming Our Council

FINSUS5 – Actual Outturn as a Percentage of Budgeted Expenditure.

The actual spend recorded in the Budget Outturn reports for 2023/24 was £104,923,600. The original 2023/24 budget was £100,981,000. A percentage spend against the original budget of 103.9%. The revised budget, including redeterminations and contributions from reserves, was £103,630,900 reducing the percentage spend against budget to 101.4%.

Baseline 2020/21	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
102.09%	100%	100%

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	21	
2023/24	12	

ACTUAL OUTTURN AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGETED EXPENDITURE



Priority: Transforming Our Council

CORP6a – Sickness Absence Days per Teacher.

Sickness absence has increased since pre-covid levels, which is consistent with the picture elsewhere in the country. The Corporate Leadership Team have agreed to have a renewed focus on reducing absence, and new initiatives in terms of health and wellbeing continue to be rolled out to help support attendance.

Baseline 2021/22	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
8.2	10.76	6

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	22	
2023/24	31	

SICKNESS ABSENCE DAYS PER TEACHER



Priority: Transforming Our Council

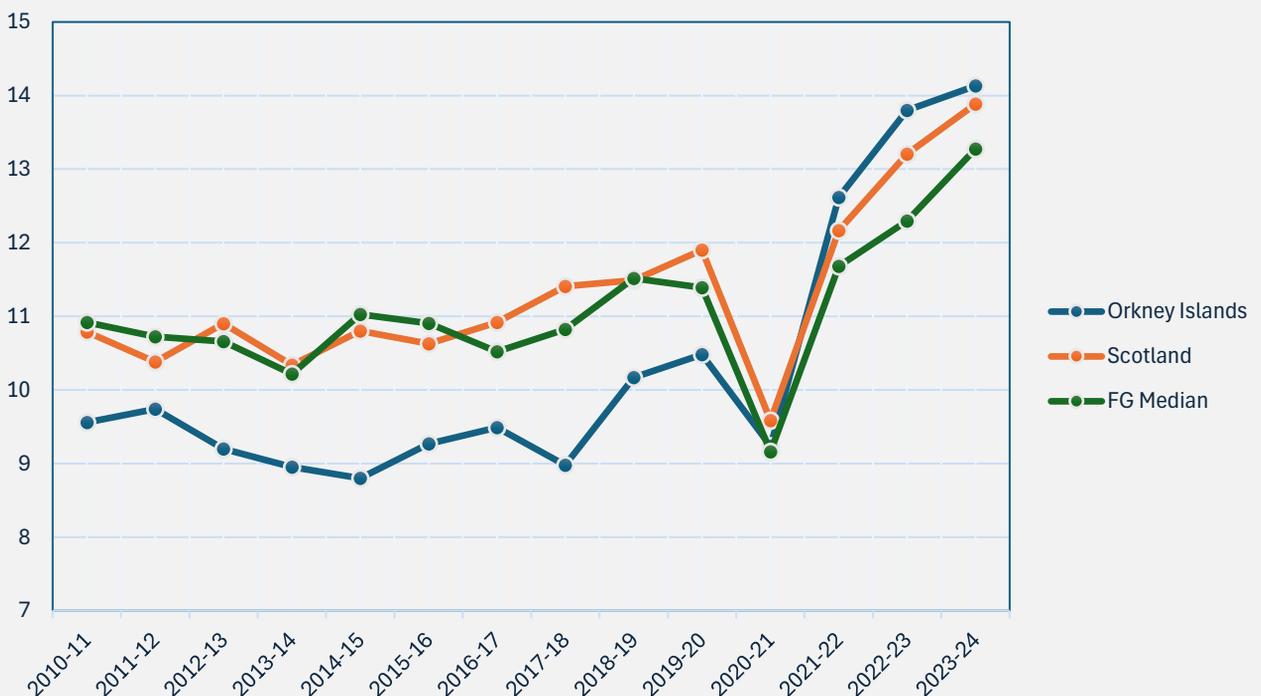
CORP6b – Sickness Absence Days per Employee (Non-Teacher)

Sickness absence has increased since pre-covid levels, which is consistent with the picture elsewhere in the country. The Corporate Leadership Team have agreed to have a renewed focus on reducing absence, and new initiatives in terms of health and wellbeing continue to be rolled out to help support attendance.

Baseline 2021/22	Performance 2023/24	Target 2027/28
12.62	14.13	9

Rank out of 32 Scottish Councils		
2022/23	19	
2023/24	19	

SICKNESS ABSENCE DAYS PER EMPLOYEE (NON-TEACHER)



Local Government Benchmarking Framework

Additional notes on individual indicators

CORP-ASSET01 – Proportion of Operational Buildings that are Suitable for their Current Use:

This indicator reflects the extent to which buildings are suitable for use and delivery of services, and for individual buildings there are 4 categories defined:

A: Good - Performing well and operating effectively (physical element carries out function totally as new including consideration of the transverse elements),

B: Satisfactory - Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (physical element carries out function satisfactorily, may show signs of age and including consideration of some transverse elements),

C: Poor - Showing major defects and/or not operating adequately (physical element does not carry out function effectively without continuous repair, shows signs of age and does not consider most of the transverse elements),

D: Bad - Economic life expired and/or risk of failure.

HSN5 – Percentage of Council Dwellings that are Energy Efficient.

The data for this indicator is based on the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) which assesses a property's efficiency in terms of the rating given on the property's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC rating).

Further information about how the EESH thresholds are set and the milestones for improvement are available on the Scottish Government's website using the link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/home-energy-and-fuel-poverty/energy-efficiency-in-social-housing/>