

**Transcription of Application to the Congested Districts Board  
for a nurse-midwife, by William Muir, 1899, AF41/323/4**

Sanday,  
Orkney, 30<sup>th</sup> January 1899

Sir

I am directed to submit the following facts to the "Congested Districts Board" regarding the island of North Ranaldsay which forms part of the parish of Cross + Burness in the island of Sanday. Viz:- That North Ranaldsay is 7 ½ miles from Sanday, by mail conveyance, which they have once a week, weather permitting. In the winter, very often it happens that no communication can be had for several weeks, they have no telegraph communication. The population is 501, there are two churches and one school, they have two midwives, one is over 80 and the other over 90 years of age, they are practically without any one possessed of medical skill, or even of nursing in cases of sickness. The Medical Officer who is paid for attending to the few paupers, resides in Sanday. When his services are required by any of the inhabitants, it often happens that the weather will prevent a boat from crossing for days and sometimes even weeks at a time. Under these circumstances the inhabitants aim at having a resident nurse and midwife combined. The Local Government Board have been approached with the view of obtaining a Grant for a woman of that kind, but have intimated that they have no fund to meet a case of this kind, I am therefore to enquire if your Board can do anything by way of assisting the inhabitants in the direction indicated?

I am  
Sir  
Your Obedient Servant  
W<sup>m</sup> Muir

The Secretary  
Congested Districts Board  
Edinburgh