

John Richards, Orkney

"Public Health – An Orkney Perspective (Housing)

A presentation discussing the condition of housing in Orkney, how it has improved over the past 15 years and the impact that poor housing can have upon a community's wellbeing.

John Richards joined Orkney Islands Council as Housing Manager in 1991, having spent the previous decade as a Senior Housing Officer with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council in the West Midlands. In 1994 he was appointed Assistant Director of Housing and in 1996 he also took on the role of Manager of Orkney Islands Property Developments Ltd. Educated at West Bromwich Grammar School, he held a variety of jobs including trainee journalist, Bookmaker, and milkman, before moving to the Middle East where he studied Hebrew Language and Jewish History before returning to Birmingham to obtain his professional Housing, and Planning, qualifications. He remains a keen follower of West Bromwich Albion Football Club which demonstrates his lifelong commitment to lost causes!!