On an ordinary day in an ordinary surgery in Inverness there is sometimes time for reflection- why did I come here, why did I stay and why should anyone else do the same? Of course, the answers are different on different days. So what do I like…

Professionally, the standard of General Practice is very high, a fact often fed back to us by our new consultant colleagues as they take up post and settle into the medical community. We are still small enough to know most of our secondary care colleagues and foster the mutual respect which is often a casualty in the bigger hospitals. The community of GP’s in the city cooperates extraordinarily well despite subtle differences in focus and ethos whilst maintaining a great deal of respect for each other.

My job is demanding and extraordinarily varied, a product of the very wide cross section of society here, from those in castles and grand houses to those in poorly designed estates coping with deprivation and heroin. The variety within the job means that it’s never, ever boring and it’s a fantastic opportunity for learners to emerge as capable and well rounded GP’s, well prepared for their futures. Many of those who have trained here become our partners and colleagues, a practical testament to their own experiences.

Educationally, we are blessed with that scarcest of commodities, an educational ethos. This ethos encompasses experience, innovation and enthusiasm in equal measure. When you couple this with a progressive deanery which supports its trainers and learners with respect, dignity and confidence, it’s easy to see the attraction.

Inverness is a young city, the nation’s youngest and I’ve seen it grow and mature for quarter of a century. The city is both confident and challenging in equal measure and we all benefit from its modern Universities and biomedical research facilities.

Geographically, I love the clean air and long, long summer sunsets. I enjoy our proximity to wild and isolated places- an hours drive from Marks and Spencer’s reaches hills, glens and long coastal beaches. I like having the options of the city, dining, theatre, culture, history and sport.

And that’s just on the ordinary days…

Alex Thain