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To all NHS Chairs and Chief Executives

via email

25 November 2020

*Dear Colleagues*

I wanted to write on a personal basis to thank you for the nationally important work you are leading across a range of issues in what remains a difficult situation.

I am well aware of the many demands on you and the teams you lead, from responding directly to COVID-19, maintaining urgent and emergency services, delivering Test and Protect and providing vital support to care homes. Alongside all of this the delivery of the flu programme to the people of Scotland is one of the key aspects of our plan to keep our population as safe and healthy as possible over the winter months. Nor do I forget the considerable demand around our ever expanding testing programme and the opportunities presented by the redesign of urgent care. Every single one of these demands is of national importance to our Covid-19 response. I know that you are taking the opportunity locally in responding to the virus to reshape and embed changes in healthcare delivery and deepening partnership relationships which themselves take time, energy and real leadership.

And of course all of this carries risk and the management of that demands effective delegation, clear accountability and careful attention to detail.

I am exceptionally proud of how our NHS has responded to all of these demands under your leadership. Every day I see services provided to our population delivered with compassion, resilience, determination and a focus on what matters to the patient.

The team here in Government wants to do all we can to work well with you. We will continue to listen to you and act on your advice and we will continue to provide the national and local support and guidance that you will need.

I am mindful that you lead a team of clinical, management and support staff and I hope you will pass my thanks on to them. For now, my sincere thanks to you. I look forward to our continuing good work.

*Kind regards*  
*Jeane Freeman*

JEANE FREEMAN

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