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10 April 2020

Dear Chief Officers

Health and Social Care Partnerships: Reduction in Delayed Discharges

We are writing to thank you for your, and your teams', commitment and hard work across Health and Social Care Partnerships in response to the challenges of Covid-19, so clearly demonstrated in the tremendous progress you have made over the last month in reducing delayed discharges.

The requests from Malcolm Wright, Director General, Health and Social Care during March to reduce delayed discharges by 900 by the end of April must have seemed very challenging when first made. We were very pleased to note that that goal was passed on 8 April, when delays had reduced overall by 920 since the beginning of March – a remarkable national reduction overall of 57%. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved.

Of course, it remains of paramount importance not only that we free up hospital beds to help manage our Covid-19 response but that now, as always, we are focussed on ensuring people have access to the care that is most appropriate to their needs and wellbeing. We know that this is also your priority, and with this in mind we ask you to continue to do as much as you can both to sustain and to learn from the progress you have made to date. We understand that you are in regular contact with each other and our officials during this challenging period: please continue to let them know what more we can do to provide you with support.

Yours sincerely

Jeane Freeman MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Councillor Stuart Currie
COSLA Health & Social Care Spokesperson

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