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Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONNECTS

Dear Colleague,

20/09/2022

The deeply sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has touched many of us and the period of National Mourning has been an opportunity to reflect on and appreciate her incredible 70-year reign and extraordinary commitment to public service.

As the UK's longest serving monarch, most of us will not have known a time without her presence and influence. Whether or not you support the monarchy, it is undeniable that the Queen demonstrated an inspirational and lifelong commitment to public service and had a positive impact on many people's lives, something I think we can all agree, worthy of great respect and value.

Looking back over the 11 days or so, it's been touching to see colleagues, patients and visitors sharing memories, reflections and tributes, from the Book of Condolence in the Chapel, or through quiet reflection or prayer and talking with and supporting others.

Yesterday, many colleagues and patients were able to watch or listen to the State Funeral through big and small screens, so thank you to those who made that possible across our sites, including Hospital Radio Glamorgan, who collectively ensured that all those who wanted to, could take part in the historical events yesterday.

On Friday, Charles Janczewski, Cardiff and Vale UHB Chair, and I, had the incredible honour of representing the Health Board at the Service of Prayer and Reflection of the Life of Queen

Elizabeth II at Llandaff Cathedral. An incredibly moving event, it was a fitting service to mark Her Majesty's reign and it was quite something to see the people of Cardiff come together and line the streets to welcome King Charles III and the Queen Consort to our capital.

I want to extend a huge thank you to those who were involved in the planning around the vast number of Royal events that have taken place over the past week. The scale of planning and preparation that goes on behind the scenes while keeping our population safe and well is an enormous task and could not have been possible without the incredible teamwork, dedication and commitment from colleagues and key partners including emergency planning teams, local authorities and public services.

I continue to be inspired and humbled by colleagues and teams right across the Health Board and I am very grateful to you all for the professional and compassionate way you have handled the challenges of the last weeks and responded to the needs of patients, citizens and partners. To those who worked yesterday to minimise the impact on essential services, a big thank you. I know that short notice changes to services can be frustrating for you, patients and your loved ones so my thanks to everyone for being so flexible and accommodating.

Best wishes,
Suzanne





Chair Charles Janczewski and I at Llandaff Cathedral



His Majesty King Charles III and the Queen Consort at Llandaff Cathedral. Credit: Cardiff Council



Schoolchildren and members of the public line the streets of Cardiff. Credit: Cardiff Council