



Message from Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset

As I watch the community in Somerset and those who take care of them, respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, I am particularly aware that, you, our GP s, across the county, have had to make radical changes to almost every aspect of your work.

We are so very lucky, in this country, that our health care is so streamlined and efficient. I fear that we do not appreciate, in normal times, how very fortunate we are. At the moment, under this shocking and unprecedented state of affairs, you have reacted with tremendous speed and ingenuity. Because of this, we, the general public, remain safe and protected in a way which is truly remarkable.

Because I have paraplegia and I live in a wheelchair, which means that my life is more precarious than it might be. I am particularly conscious that every day all that I do is only possible because of the kindness and compassion which greets me every time I need to ask for help from our GP and the team who manage our local surgery. I was once a nurse myself, and I am married to a doctor, so I also understand the commitment that a life in front line care means. We have never faced anything like this in our lifetime, though, so the demands which you face on our behalf at the moment exceed anything which I experienced while I worked as a nurse.

It is time that we thanked you all, and your teams and the people who run our health centres and surgeries, for this remarkable contribution to our lives.

I do hope that, when this is over and we can hope to return to a more normal life, we in the community will remember what you do for us, always, and in particular, during this crisis. I hope that we will never forget what you have done to maintain our health and security.

I am particularly aware that this care has been given to us with no particular regard for your own welfare and safety. This is confirmation of your devotion to the task of caring for the general public at all costs.

Please accept, therefore, this very inadequate expression of my admiration for what you are doing and, also, my own personal gratitude. This message expresses the thanks not only of the people of Somerset but also, as I am her representative in our county, of Her Majesty as well.

A profound thank you from us all.

Annie Maw