



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

As Patron of The Royal College of Midwives I have had the pleasure of meeting and talking to many of you and your maternity team colleagues around the country over many years. I am always deeply impressed by your level of care, dedication and commitment delivering your work on behalf of women, babies and their families.

I wanted to take this opportunity on the eve of International Year of the Midwife in 2020 to express my profound admiration for the incredible and important work that you do; the value of which cannot be underestimated. I have seen this first-hand on my visits to maternity units across the country. On these visits I have also seen the joy on the faces of mothers and their partners and their gratitude for the support you give them.

The Year of the Midwife will be a wonderful opportunity for a celebration of your profession. It will put you and your unique contribution to the health, wellbeing and empowerment of women rightly in the spotlight. I am also pleased that as Patron of "Nursing now", HRH The Duchess of Cambridge has also become involved in this international year and is writing to you to express her admiration.

My very best wishes to you all for the year ahead celebrating you and your profession. I look forward to meeting even more of you in the coming year; your year.