



Ms Phil Ní Sheaghda
General Secretary
Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation
The Whitworth Building
North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7

12th May 2020

Dear Phil

The World Health Organisation dedicated 2020 as International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. None of us could have anticipated last May when the announcement was made what 2020 would bring but, if anything, the global pandemic reminds us how much we rely on the skill and dedication of committed nurses and midwives. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of your members to the national response to the Covid- 19 pandemic. The International Year of the Nurse and Midwife also coincides with the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale and 200 years on, nurses and midwives continue to demonstrate professionalism, expertise and compassion whilst caring for patients during these challenging times.

Today on International Nurses Day, as I did on the International Day of the Midwife, I acknowledge the unique role played by all nurses and midwives and thank them for their incredible work and commitment to all the people of Ireland.

I would also like to acknowledge their families and loved ones who continue to play a vital role in supporting nurses and midwives to remain on the front line.

I hope that nurses and midwives, wherever they are working, will have the opportunity to take a moment during this week, however brief, to reflect on the enormous contribution they are making both individually and collectively during these very challenging times. They can be proud of the work they do as they continue to justify the trust placed in them by patients, their families and the public in general.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Health