

Dear Colleague,

Today marks a very emotional and significant day, it is the anniversary of the UK lockdown and the day we join together in a National Day of Reflection to commemorate all of those who have tragically lost their lives to Coronavirus.

This evening, (23<sup>rd</sup> March) Penallta House, Blackwood Miners' Institute and the Caerphilly Visitor Centre will join iconic buildings across Wales in a yellow glow as a symbolic gesture of remembrance.

**I would also like to invite you to join the national minute of reflection at midday today.**

This year has been so tough for everyone, but even more so for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one in a time where we have not been able to see extended family. Our thoughts are very much with those families today.

I feel it is also important for me to extend my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for doing all you can to keep our community safe. It is so much more than operating essential services, which you have done seamlessly, you have also been a lifeline for so many residents. This will be a dark period in our history, but I hope that you will look back and feel proud of the significant role you have played and the difference your personal sacrifices have made to protect our people and place.

Our numbers are dropping steadily, but the virus is still very much with us, that being said there is light at the end of the tunnel and I know we will get there, a better, stronger and even more resilient Team Caerphilly than ever before.

Thank you  
**Christina**