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Lewis MacDonald MSP
Convenor
Health & Sport Committee

Via Email

19 January 2021

Dear Lewis

In my letter of 21 December 2020 concerning our plans to support the NHS with rising demand of admissions of COVID19 patients, I committed to keeping the Committee informed should there be further significant developments. I am writing now to outline the most recent development in supporting urgent elective and cancer activity up to March 2021.

Due to the current demands facing the NHS, Health Boards are stepping back their non-urgent, routine procedures consistent with the [Framework for Clinical Prioritisation of Elective Care](#). To support NHS Boards and to ensure that urgent elective and cancer patients continue to receive treatment, and following arrangements set out in the [NHS Winter Preparedness Plan 2020-21](#), we have secured further capacity from the private healthcare sector in Scotland. Our strategy for using the private sector is to ensure that there is a green pathway for those patients who require vital planned care. The private sector hospitals will provide support for specialities such as breast surgery, urology, and gynaecology.

This support comes on top of the additional capacity already being provided by NHS Golden Jubilee and NHS Louisa Jordan for a number of elective treatments and outpatient appointments. This will allow NHS Boards to concentrate on the front line response to the impact of COVID19.

In addition you may wish to know that since July 2020 more than 10,000 procedures have been performed at NHS Golden Jubilee across orthopaedics, ophthalmology, heart and lung surgery, endoscopy and diagnostic imaging, including:

- Over 5,000 cardiothoracic and cardiology procedures – both planned and emergency
- 1,516 orthopaedic patients
- 2,114 ophthalmology patients (cataracts)
- 1422 endoscopies

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- In addition, the recently opened NHS Golden Jubilee Eye Centre will perform up to 18,000 procedures each year

The NHS Golden Jubilee has also carried out 565 urgent cancer operations to support the NHSScotland recovery plan.

NHS Louisa Jordan has been working with four NHS Boards to provide over 19,000 outpatient appointments across 14 specialties. These include orthopaedics, diagnostic imaging such as CT scanning and general x-ray, dermatology, oral medicine, plastics, rheumatology, breast clinics and occupational health services.

In addition, over 19,000 NHS and social care staff have been vaccinated at the site, including 5,000 on Saturday.

Over 5,200 individuals from NHS Boards, the Royal College, Universities and Colleges have also been trained using the healthcare facilities and simulations on site.

Please be assured that these arrangements are being closely monitored and I will continue to apprise the Committee of any other developments.

JEANE FREEMAN

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