Back in November our hospitals in Greater Manchester took the difficult decision to cancel some planned operations to help deal with the increased number of cases of Covid 19.

In recent weeks the number of people in hospital with Covid has started to fall, as have numbers of cases in the community. Covid will be with us for some time, but we hope we are moving permanently away from the intense pressure the NHS has seen over the last year.

Not all of planned care has been delayed; some was able to continue throughout the Covid period or start again during recent months and hospitals have been in touch with many patients already about their treatment.

Our hospitals are now able to start catching up on the backlog of people waiting. Consultants will be looking at who has the greatest clinical need and who has waited the longest, and prioritising people against these two key principles as each service gets back up and running.

Some people may be asked to see a different consultant for their treatment, or have their procedures in a different hospital to the one they may have expected to have gone to, including private hospitals in the independent sector.

We know many people waiting for treatment will be disappointed or worried, but you will be contacted as soon as possible over the coming months. Please continue to bear with us.

Thank you to our patients for their continued support and patience.