

## Consultant 1

13 July 2012

Dear Sir,

You say at paragraph 28(c) about *Theory of harm 2: market power of individual consultants and/or consultant groups in certain local areas*:

1. **'the joint setting of prices (for anaesthetists). We are not aware of the existence of such arrangements in respect of other consultant groups.'**

This is incorrect.

Other groups of consultants have formed partnerships or companies providing specialist service within their locality. For instance:

- Urological surgery, (Berkshire Health): <http://www.berkshire-health.co.uk/#/urology/4559463015>
- Radiology, Berkshire Imaging: <http://www.berkshireimaging.co.uk/>

There are other such groups of specialist consultants around the country. Therefore, I believe it is unfair and unjust to single out consultant anaesthetists, who are practicing in a formal partnership or company, purely based on their specialty alone.

I go further and argue that the safe practice of modern medicine requires formal collaboration. I believe the single handed practitioner is inherently unsafe due to complexity of current medical practice.