

# FSSA

Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations



President: Mr Ian C Martin LL.M FDSRCS FRCS

Secretary: Nechama Lewis BA (Hons)

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A, 3PE

Phone: 020 7611 1731 Fax: 020 7404 4200

Email: [secretariat@fssa.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@fssa.org.uk) Website: [www.fssa.org.uk](http://www.fssa.org.uk)

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Ms Julie Hawes  
Inquiry Coordinator  
Competition Commission  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
London WC1B 4AD

Dear Ms Hawes,

Thank you for asking the FSSA to comment on your investigation into the private healthcare market.

The Federation of Surgical Specialist Associations (FSSA) is comprised of the Presidents of the 10 recognised Surgical Specialties. Our remit is to promote the highest standards of surgical care within the UK and Ireland.

We strongly support the right of patients to choose their surgical team, whether in the NHS or independent sector, based upon evidence of the quality of care, and the training, experience and qualifications of the surgeon offering care. The advice of well informed general practitioners is of paramount importance in ensuring that patients are referred to the most suitable clinician to provide for their needs.

We firmly believe that during the consenting process patients should be given sufficient information about the anticipated benefits of surgery, in addition to the potential complications, and the outcome results of the surgical team, in order that they are able to make an informed choice about the proposed surgery.

Surgeons owe all patients, whether treated in the NHS or the independent sector, a professional duty of care, which should at all times be their overriding concern, and should not be affected by financial considerations.

I hope this information is of some help in your investigation

Yours sincerely

Ian C Martin  
President

The Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland

The British Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

The British Association of Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

The British Association of Paediatric Surgeons

The British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgeons

The British Association of Urological Surgeons

The British Orthopaedic Association

The Society of British Neurological Surgeons

The Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain & Ireland

The Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland