

## Consultant 66

10 July 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing with reference to the referral of Private Medical Insurers to the Competition Commission. I am a consultant ophthalmic surgeon in [X] and have been in post for [X] years.

Having read many of the submissions, I would like to draw the attention of the CC to other significant points that appear to have been missed.

As consultants, we have had to be amongst the best performers academically as well as having had to work hard and be dedicated to our profession over many years to achieve our positions. This includes research, teaching as well as delivering a high quality of care to our patients (whether NHS or Private). Many service developments as well as improvements in care are driven primarily by such professionals. In the healthcare system, this contribution is invaluable.

The driver for most doctors is a sense of duty and care for the population. However, there is also the promise that with this effort, there will be security, a sense of achievement and financial reward that can be beneficial for our families as well as the community as most doctors spend considerable sums developing and supporting research and innovation.

If we do not reward this effort, we are likely to drive down healthcare development in the future. We are also at risk of demoralising and discouraging future generations from following such a path and contributing to the maintenance and development of quality healthcare for our patients.

There are many other issues that have been raised including the rising costs for patients, the falling reimbursements for clinicians and rising costs for indemnity and clerical support but these have been made elsewhere. From a provider point of view, I am also frustrated at being able to access clinical facilities from which to operate due to a relative monopoly by the big hospitals who over time exclude new entrants.

I look forward to the review so that our patients may get better quality of care and our bright, young, dedicated and driven consultants get a level playing field to continue to improve quality of care and develop innovative treatments that we will all need in the future.