

Consultant 3

26 January 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am a Consultant Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeon and base my private practice predominantly at The Lister, although I also do some work at The London Bridge. I have been following your recent investigations into the private healthcare market with a great deal of concern. In particular, I believe that forcing HCA to divest two hospitals is unnecessary and will be extremely detrimental to the quality of private healthcare available in London.

The HCA hospitals where I have interacted offer first-class care. This is predominantly the result of HCA's commitment to providing world class facilities. It has recently installed a new intensive Care Unit at The Lister and is continually upgrading everything, even the stairwell, in order to ensure an exceptional working environment. HCA also focuses on ensuring services within its facilities are top quality, for example HCA measurably improved the quality of nursing by halting use of agency nursing. HCA's network of hospitals not only enables it to make such investments, but it also makes diagnosis and treatment pathways much more efficient and convenient for both patients and doctors. At The Lister, I can quickly pull up the radiological imaging that were conducted on my patient in another HCA hospital mid-consultation, this would not be possible should the patient have been tested at a different provider. This demonstrably improves patient care and provides a better quality service.

I would like to reiterate that I choose to base my private practice at HCA hospitals due to the first-class patient care I am able to deliver at its facilities. I do this in spite of the fact that other private practices – for example, the Cromwell – are located closer to my main hospital and would be more convenient. Forcing HCA to divest hospitals would weaken its network and therefore lower the quality of private healthcare available within London.