

## Consultant 8

28 January 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am a Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon specialising almost exclusively in major head and neck oncology and facial reconstruction. This is indeed an area with a relatively low number of patients and high demand in resources and therefore someone might have thought that the private sector would not be interested in investing in this type of practice. However, HCA and The Harley Street Clinic in particular have shown a massive interest in the development of a surgical practice related to cancer, providing all the necessary resources in order to achieve the highest possible standards of care. This includes, one stop diagnostic clinics with radiology on site, provision of a Clinical Nurse Specialist dedicated to head and neck patients and specialist therapists, such as speech and language and dieticians, who will review the patient in the pre-treatment and post-treatment setting and obviously during the patient's stay in the hospital. In addition to this the hospital stay of the patient provides seamless transition from the Intensive Care Unit with personalised one to one nursing follow up to a "step down" semi High Dependency Unit with one to one nursing when the patient moves back to the ward. This is absolutely crucial for the early detection of clinical problems in highly delicate surgical reconstruction during the first post-operative days and indeed such a quality of service is unparalleled, not only to the private sector but within the NHS practice.

This has led to the development of The Harley Street Clinic as an international centre for head and neck cancer services, attracting referrals essentially from all over the world. Personally I would have major concerns about the impact of any suggestions that may undermine this level of care and obviously I would be more than happy to provide you with detailed information about the needs of a highly specialised head and neck service within the private sector.