

## **Consultant 15**

31 January 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am an Orthopaedic Surgeon who works at The Princess Grace Hospital as well as a number of other private healthcare facilities, including those owned by BMI, Spire and independents.

The Princess Grace offers a far superior quality of care for its patients than the other private hospitals where I work. This is evident through every part of the patient journey right from admissions (HCA's process is extremely streamlined and this takes the stress away from the patients), through to the infrastructure, theatres, day care facilities, surgical equipment, theatre assistance and nursing staff. HCA supports the implementation of new techniques and equipment in a safe manner, whereas other operators are much more reluctant to do so.

The impetus to improve quality of care at The Princess Grace is very much driven by HCA management. I am deeply concerned that if another operator were to take over the hospital, the investment in innovation and staffing will be put at risk through unnecessary cost cutting and attempts to streamline treatments. BMI and Spire, for example, operate standalone facilities and are not as receptive to investing in quality.

I am therefore extremely worried by your suggestion to force HCA to sell The Princess Grace.