

## Consultant 21

30 January 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I would like to express my views in support of HCA in light of the Competition Commission's recently published 'Provisional Decision on Remedies'.

I am a Consultant Neurosurgeon working at Harley Street at Queen's in Romford since it opened about [X] years ago. My private practice is also based in [X] hospitals. Before HCA opened its facility at Queen's Hospital the more complex private spinal operations either had to be carried out in one of the Brentwood hospitals or admitted to NHS wards as paying patients. Private cranial operations were also performed in a similar way in Queen's Hospital. Admissions of these private patients were difficult as they competed with NHS patients and involved a lot of hands-on administration by the consultants.

Harley Street at Queen's has been of consistently high standard since it opened in 2010 for the great benefit of local private patients with more complex neurosurgical pathologies. This private-NHS partnership offers advantages of both 'worlds'. There is 24/7 availability of MRI and CT scanning, in-house ICU/HDU backup when needed, specialist neurosurgical nursing care, highly trained and experienced neurosurgical theatre staff all making it a safer environment for complex neurosurgical cases. The patients have been consistently praising the spacious, clean, light rooms, the excellent nursing and medical care (RMO) and the catering provided. The administrative staff are highly effective and flexible in organising inpatient admissions making it simple for the consultants. For me as a Consultant Neurosurgeon it has become much easier and safer to treat these complex private neurosurgical patients at Harley Street at Queen's. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.