

Consultant 24

3 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

It was surprising and disappointing that the Competition Commission in its 'Provisional Decision on Remedies' have recommended that HCA disinvest the London Bridge Hospital. I have been a Consultant Physician since 2001 and am currently a Consultant Physician at a major London teaching hospital. In my extensive clinical experience the quality of care at the London Bridge Hospital is of the highest degree and the Chief Executive has always been highly responsive in elevating the standard of care of the London Bridge Hospital over and above the minimum standards assessed by key performance indicators. All of the performance indicators have shown that London Bridge Hospital is of the highest quality. The levels of clinical governance also exceed current clinical standards and my patients have also commented on the high standards of clinical care at the London Bridge Hospital.

The London Bridge Hospital is a large hospital with a high case volume. There is a substantial volume of peer reviewed publications in high impact factor journals indicating that low volume small centres have worse clinical outcomes when compared to high volume large centres.

It is surprising that the Competition Commission has made the decision to recommend disinvesting of the London Bridge Hospital without regard to clinical quality or clinical safety. Whilst I recognise that the intention of the Competition Commission is to increase patient choice, these actions will reduce the patient's choice of large high quality private hospitals within the London area and potentially could impact on the quality of clinical care.