

Consultant 34

3 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am a Consultant Gynaecologist working at the Portland and the Princess Grace Hospitals. I read with the concern the Competition Commission's recommendation that the Princess Grace should be divested by HCA.

I choose to centre my practice at the Portland Hospital but also use the Princess Grace as a sister facility for breast screening and treatment of any resultant problems and also for occasional surgery, when there are operating room constraints at the Portland Hospital itself. I have worked in the private sector in Central London for nine years and I have had admitting rights at the [X] as well as [X] where I still occasionally practice. There is absolutely no doubt that the quality of care and equipment and facilities offered within the HCA group are far superior to those offered by its competitors. Both the Princess Grace and the Portland Hospital are also able to offer specialist nursing care for my particular very sensitive area of gynaecology which is of enormous value to my patients.

In addition to utilising the Princess Grace for breast care and operating, I also use the MRI facility there on a regular basis. The quality of equipment to provide very specialised images of the pelvis and consistent interpretation by senior, very experienced radiologists makes a huge difference to my practice in terms of planning follow up and surgical procedures.

Should divestment of the Princess Grace go ahead I fear that the wonderful continuity of care and the quality of care provided for my patients with my current arrangements would be lost and my patients would suffer as a result.

As such I must implore you to reconsider the provisional suggested remedies in favour of retaining the HCA network as it is.