

Consultant 40

4 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am writing to express my concern at the extraordinary decision to suggest the forced sale of London Bridge Hospital, regarded by many of us in Medicine as possibly the UK's finest hospital.

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I mention my own medical interests because ours is one of a significant number of very specialised, internationally recognised units based at London Bridge Hospital. I believe all my specialist colleagues will agree that we are only able to practice so successfully here because of the management strengths and HCA's approach to investment. They have certainly provided the vital tertiary services necessary for the care of our very sick patients.

I understand the Commission is set up to look at business competition. Can I ask how actively the opinions of medical colleagues were sought by the Commission?

For my part, I hope that those deciding on the outcome of the current proposal will take into account the genuine concerns of a clinician who feels alarm at the damage an outside agency could cause to London Bridge Hospital, a centre with a truly international reputation in clinical care.