

**Consultant 47**

5 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

**Private Healthcare provision in London - response to the Competition Commission and the 'Provisional Decision on Remedies'**

I have been a Consultant Cardiologist at London Bridge Hospital for the past [X] years and I am writing to you following the publication of the Competition Commission's report proposing HCA sells LBH. I was very disappointed on hearing this report and am very concerned about the future of the hospital.

Thanks to HCA support, London Bridge was one of the first facilities in the capital to set up dedicated cardiac MRI services, for which HCA has heavily invested in staff training and a dedicated cardiac RMO. The hospital pioneered this kind of cardiac model, one which other centres are now copying. HCA also assisted in setting up London Bridge's Private Diagnostic Treatment Centre at 31 Old Broad Street to better serve the needs of the working patient population in the City.

In general, my experience at London Bridge has shown HCA to be consistently keen to embrace new technologies, always quickly adopting the most state-of-the art equipment. I have also witnessed the group's eagerness to provide new consultants with full support to set up practice.

I would argue that HCA continues to invest extensively in all sites across the group and will support establishing new units even when that service is covered elsewhere. For example, the Platinum Medical Centre was set up at The Wellington despite ongoing London Bridge Hospital expansion and a dedicated cardiac MRI service was established also at The Wellington to add to that which was already offered at London Bridge.

In summary, I would ask you to seriously consider the above examples of the ways HCA hospitals, including London Bridge, have significantly benefited from being part of the group before you make your final decision. It is my heartfelt view that your suggested course of action could negatively affect LBH standards and I would be very concerned about the impact this could have on patient care.