

Consultant 48

5 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb,

HCA hospitals

I am a Consultant Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeon and my private practice is predominantly based at The Lister Hospital, although I also do some work at The Sloane Hospital. I am greatly disappointed by some of the remedies published in your provisional remedy report, specifically that which requires HCA to divest two of its hospitals.

The HCA hospital where I have practised for many years offers first-class care in all departments: radiology, operating theatres, physiotherapy, outpatients, as well as on the wards. This is predominantly the result of their commitment to providing excellent facilities. The new Intensive Care Unit at The Lister Hospital has proved a great asset for my elderly or poorly patients requiring joint replacement surgery. HCA is continually investing in its hospitals' facilities in order to ensure an excellent standard of care. HCA's network of hospitals makes diagnosis facilities much more efficient and convenient for both myself and my patients. Many of my patients undergoing radiological investigations can use an HCA facility near their place of work, and due to the hospital intranet, the results are available to me at The Lister such that I can quickly pull up the radiological images that were conducted on my patient in another HCA hospital. This option would not be possible should the patient have been tested at a different hospital group. This patently improves the service and care I'm able to deliver to my patients.

In summary, although I have worked elsewhere in the past, I continue to use an HCA hospital due to the excellent facilities available. A weakened HCA network (caused by selling two hospitals) would undoubtedly lower the quality of care in London.