

Consultant 46

5 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am a Consultant Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon working at the London Bridge Hospital since [redacted] ([redacted]).

I am aware of the Competition Commission's decision to urge HCA Hospitals to sell 2 of their sites, one of them being the London Bridge Hospital.

I would like to raise my concerns and doubts regarding this recommendation, that I believe is not well thought through and has left outside consideration the best interests of patients treated at LBH.

The high quality of care in a safe and very professional environment from LBH, where healthcare is offered and provided to private patients within all principles of clinical governance is something that the Competition Commission has to have a more careful look at.

LBH offers for breast patients a unique one stop service on its outpatient's facilities, and the full range of complex breast cancer surgery, including oncoplastic surgery and breast reconstruction. These are procedures of very high complexity requiring highly specialized theatre staff, nursing staff and infrastructure background that is all available at LBH. LBH has a state of the art multidisciplinary breast cancer care centre, including all specialists working together in a well set up multidisciplinary team.

Behind the current level of expertise and quality of care stands a highly trained and specialized Consultant staff that worked together with management in the previous years to achieve the current situation.

This is something that takes years and there is a need for a strong collaboration between all parties.

As a fairly new member of the Consultant staff I am proud to be part of the LBH Breast care team and we work hard to further increase the quality and variety of services offered.

The Competition Commission's decision is detrimental and has a negative impact on the private healthcare offered on this site and it is far less than acceptable and explainable.

Medical staff and patients should be consulted and their opinion heard when similar recommendations.

I would be more than happy to be interviewed to explain why the current ownership should continue and why this would serve the best interest of our patients and also the staff working at LBH.