

Consultant 49

4 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb,

Having read the report by the Competition Commission regarding HCA hospitals I felt I should write to you to provide a senior Consultant's view.

I work in a number of private providers ranging from those within NHS facilities, HCA hospitals and independent hospitals such as The London Clinic and have done so for 12 years.

Throughout my years in private practice I have seen HCA invest heavily in their facilities to create a safe environment for patient care. Their unparalleled quest for improving outcomes by investment in resources, adopting NHS best practice and engaging clinicians should be commended not criticised. Many of the non HCA hospitals continue to practice, in my opinion, in an outdated fashion and are in need of modernisation both in infrastructure and culture.

The future of world class healthcare in the private sector should encompass the lessons learnt from the NHS and across the world with a focus on robust governance, team working (rather than the outdated sole practitioner model) and access to the best resources 24/7.

HCA has responded to these challenges by building level 3 ITU on every site, creating a governance framework as per the NHS, developing formal rotas across specialities and crucially acknowledging the importance of medical leadership in the private sector.

In my view asking HCA to divest of facilities would be to the detriment of private care provision in London and be penalising a successful organisation which has adopted the principles of best medical practice.