

## Consultant 52

6 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb,

Competition Commission recommendation re HCA

I am a consultant [redacted] at The Lister Hospital and have my academic appointment at [redacted]. I was surprised by the decision on the part of the Competition Commission to ask HCA to sell two of its hospitals and I am writing to express my opposition to this.

It is relevant that in [redacted] I moved some of my practice to [redacted] though continued to be based at The Lister. In striking contrast to the support I receive from HCA, it was difficult to set up or run a practice given the [redacted] processes, forms and bureaucracy. These outweighed any advantages to being on two sites and I closed down this operation within months.

As a [redacted] with a subspecialist interest in [redacted] surgery, I feel I have benefitted from HCA's openness to and encouragement of medical innovation at all levels. An important example of this was development within The Lister of the first Mohs Unit at a UK private hospital. This involved setting space aside close to the operating theatre and equipping a Mohs lab with a cryostat, specialist cutting blade and staining material.

In summary, I have found that HCA is supportive of its staff and of innovation. I don't understand the rationale of the Competition Commission and would ask that it reconsider its proposal re HCA.