

**Consultant 53**

4 February 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Private Healthcare Market Investigation

As a Consultant [✂] surgeon practising in both the public and private sector in South East London, I am dismayed to read of the Competition Commission's recommendation that HCA divest itself of the London Bridge Hospital. I fail to see how such a divestiture will enhance either clinical quality or innovation. For the last decade, I have had practising rights at the London Bridge Hospital and continue to be impressed by HCA's dedication to improve the quality of care delivered to patients eg, state of the art endoscopy suite, state of the art fluoroscopy suite, state of the art MRI scanners etc. This, I believe, is driven by HCA's commitment to both develop and operate world class hospitals in a world class city. Testament to their expertise in managing both secondary and tertiary care in a private setting is the fact that many internationally recognised NHS institutions, such The Christie Hospital, University College Hospital and Guy's Hospital have chosen to enter into partnership with HCA to develop their Private Patients Units. In short, the decision does not make clinical sense.