

Consultant 58

5 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb,

I am a Consultant [redacted] at [redacted] with a private practice based at the Harley Street Clinic for a little over a decade. I have been following the private healthcare market investigation culminating in the recent report by the competition commission recommending divesture of the HCA hospitals in London.

I wish to write and explain the reason why I have found one of its hospitals (The Harley Street Clinic) to be the “gold standard” for the delivery of complex pelvic surgery for cancer with excellent outcomes comparable to the best centres worldwide. The reason I suspect this is so, is the provision of the latest equipment such as harmonic pelvic dissectors to name just one, multidisciplinary team of the highest calibre supported by a first class level 3 ITU. For example, a cancer patient was told she had inoperable recurrent disease and denied surgery to treat her intractable symptoms elsewhere in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In desperation, the patient arranged her own appointment at The Harley Street Clinic Cancer Centre following research on the internet. [redacted] a multidisciplinary team case review comprising of a medical oncologist, pelvic radiologist, gynaecological oncologist, urologist and following initial chemotherapy that was agreed, she is now disease and symptom free following successful surgery. I honestly, cannot think of any other private hospital outside the HCA group Nationally, that I would have considered such complex intervention and confident of a good outcome. The Nature of this service also benefits the NHS through collaboration of the Harley Street Clinic with University College London Hospital benefitting both adult and young cancer patients.

I hope you understand my anxiety that any new providers may not be able or willing to continue the generous level of investment required for cutting edge equipments and peri-operative support that is necessary for one to offer patients (National and International) the highest possible quality of care available in the developed world.