

Consultant 61

6 February 2014

Dear Madam/ Sir

I am writing this to you following concerns discussed amongst the consultants about the Competition Commissions' provisional recommendations that affect the HCA Hospitals. I have been a consultant [redacted] at The Christie Clinic in Manchester since [redacted] and we had been able to deliver the highest quality of care to our patients that has been the epitome of world-class cancer care. The facilities and support are comparable to be amongst the best, but what sets it apart is that we are able to do clinical research, including trials with novel agents, that is currently not easily available in the private sector. This has been facilitated through the Sarah Cannon Trust which has the infrastructure and governance responsibilities for research in HCA International Hospitals. The Competition Commissions' decision involving London Bridge Hospital and The Princess Grace Hospital, if taken forward, would have direct impact on this as we are looking into involving those sites for some of our ongoing and future clinical trials in oncological patients and also for clinical trials in pain. I would like to bring to the kind attention of the members of the commission that there are only very few centres that support research and this has been the result of all the hard work put towards striving for excellence in clinical practice and a patient-focussed delivery of care. I would humbly urge the commission to look into this matter taking into account all the aspects relating to the quality of care and maintaining the highest standards for developing an excellent environment for improving the patient experience.