

Consultant 66

30 January 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am [REDACTED] at the Portland Hospital and a [REDACTED]. I have trained and worked in the UK and [REDACTED].

I have been very concerned by the Competition Commission's suggested remedies for restructuring private medical facilities within Greater London.

Uniquely among the London providers of private healthcare, HCA international invests aggressively in those new technologies that patients need and seek out, and which doctors need to give modern, low-risk care. In my own area, the NICU at the Portland is brand new and equipped with the latest equipment. HCA International's support is enabling us to care for sicker and smaller babies without burdening the very busy NHS London units. We have a new and fully equipped Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, which allowed [REDACTED], only this week, to admit a desperately sick child directly from my outpatient clinic at the Portland. The hospital now has sophisticated CT and MRI scanning facilities specifically designed to be child-friendly. The hospital supports clinical research projects, one of which I am about to roll out into the NHS. HCA is a leader in Clinical Governance and strives for excellence in its staff, facilities and levels of care. The quality of the final product it offers patients is streets ahead of its rivals.

London is a world-class city requiring world-class healthcare. Any degradation in medical expertise or the availability of cutting edge medical and surgical techniques will have an adverse impact on London and the UK's ability to attract international clientele who are highly discerning, intelligent and well informed. London's private Hospitals and Clinics compete directly with the best in the US, continental Europe, and the Far East. HCA hospitals and clinics are an essential part of London's invisible exports. To restrict HCA's ability to expand and improve its services would reduce the ability to London to hold its own in the international medical marketplace.

As a consultant in an acute speciality in one of HCA's hospitals, I am constantly reminded of the need to improve services by the atmosphere of personal interest and investment by the management which permeates all levels of the hospital and which demands the very best of care be given to our young patients. This attention to detail and determination to improve is characteristic of this healthcare company.