

## Consultant 68

5 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb,

I am one of the [redacted] surgeons at the London Bridge Hospital, having practiced there since [redacted]. As a Consultant Cardiac surgeon I am writing to you in regards to the Competition Commission's recent proposal that two of the HCA group's hospitals be sold, including London Bridge and the impact it will have on my patients and practice.

If someone else were to purchase the London Bridge Hospital I would be very concerned about their plans for the facility. Its current operations are very effective and result in great patient care. It seems unlikely that a new operator would choose to maintain the status quo and would instead try to expand or change operations. These expansion plans would place great risk on the quality of care delivered as it would cause great upheaval in the way things work today – and they work very well!

The London Bridge Hospital is the only hospital where I can practice cardiac surgery – no other private hospitals offer the facilities for me within reasonable reach from my NHS practice at [redacted]. I would have to continue to practice at the London Bridge which I think would be unfortunate given my concerns above. The management at HCA is very good and I regard John Reay very highly; they are a very proactive management team that support the clinicians on the ground.

I disagree with the Competition Commission's remedy to divest London Bridge Hospital and would hope that you will take the opinion of practicing clinicians into account in your final recommendations.