

Consultant 73

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Dear Inquiry Manager

Thank you for accepting my input with respect to the recent competition commission provisional recommendation.

I have significant reservations about the conclusion reached, that HCA should divest two of its hospitals.

My primary concern is a resultant loss of quality if the proposed remedies are implemented.

I cannot see who will be held accountable, if, as I believe, these remedies lead to an overall deterioration in patient care.

To say that 'health care is complex', is to state the obvious, it has been the economic and political millstone of my generation nationally and internationally. Yet despite this, and a universal increase in health costs, HCA have created a network of interlinked hospitals in London that together provide unique international private health care excellence to the world.

In that context – removing two links within that chain, underestimates the inevitable risks to the premium health care capacity that London provides (and will be seen to provide).

In my specialty (radiology) we see the synergies of a multi disciplinary team – HCA have literally been the only private health care institution, I have seen to support multidisciplinary meetings in such a full and farsighted way.

Indeed in all respects, their clinical and scientific rigour matches that of a world class teaching hospital (my NHS practice) – their equipment – 3T MRI and SPECT/CT among them, have been implemented in a way that indicates an undoubted commitment to quality.

Farsightedness and a commitment to quality have been an HCA signature while I have been practicing at LBH.

It would be a tragedy if these virtues were diminished, at LBH, but a well intentioned, but short sighted attempt to tinker with a complex ecosystem.