

Consultant 72

28 January 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb,

I am a consultant Orthopaedic surgeon of some [redacted] years standing and have grave reservations about the effect the competition commission findings regarding HCA in central London will have if implemented.

In common with many Orthopaedic surgeons, my practice is split between my NHS base ([redacted]) and more than one private hospital. I have practicing rights at [redacted] and The Princess Grace Hospital (HCA).

I have a regular [redacted] clinic in East London in which I see patients from Essex and East London, and a Central/West London practice centred on the Princess Grace Hospital. If however there are complex cases in the East End, I advise them to travel further purely because the facilities at the Princess Grace for the management of complex conditions are in a league of their own.

It should be obvious from this that the presence of the Princess Grace is actually providing competition rather than stifling it; to force its sale would in my opinion be detrimental not only to patient choice, but also to patient care. We need centres of excellence in the private sector; to force the sale of this hospital will inevitably result in pandering to the lowest common denominator in the healthcare market, and an inevitable erosion of standards.