

## Consultant 76

4 February 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you regarding the report "**Provisional Decision on Remedies**" issued by the Competition Commission (CC) in January 2014.

As a consultant [X], I have been working at [X] NHS hospitals and also privately [X], including London Bridge Hospital (LBH) where I carry out over [X]% of my private work. I would like to explain to you why I prefer LBH to the other private hospitals:

1. It provides a high quality of care.
2. It makes the patients' interest its first priority.
3. It provides me with urgent access to a surgical theatre at any time, which is exemplary among many private hospitals.
4. It provides very good to excellent clinical outcomes in many specialities.
5. Its Clinical Governance System is highly developed and robust, which is exemplary.
6. It is easily accessible for many patients due to its central location.
7. It has compassionate, dedicated and supportive staff from the doorman to the CEO of the hospital.
8. It puts the emphasis on quality of care.
9. It stands for advancement in medicine and provides the best in contemporary care to patients.
10. It is a hospital of choice for many patients from the Middle East, an important factor which boosts the regional economy. I am really disappointed with the decision of the CC regarding LBH which recommends the forced divestment of this hospital.

Since your report of 21.01.2014, I have talked to a few consultant colleagues about the CC's decision regarding forced divestment of LBH and have to say that none of us can understand the reasons behind this conclusion. The rationale behind this decision is unfathomable and I have been struggling to understand the motives lying behind this decision. As I mentioned before, LBH has a high standard of care and the outcomes of the [X] procedures which my colleagues and I perform at LBH are very good to excellent.

My patients are very satisfied with the care which they receive at LBH and speak very highly about the compassion they receive from the medical professionals.

I think the care delivered by LBH is a model of success and this quality of care should be aspired to by the other private hospitals.

I would like to ask the CC members why you have not shown any interest in the new consultants' consultation fee which was determined by Bupa and AXA PPP about 4 years ago, which is half the fee of a consultant who registered with these two private insurers prior to 2010? By any standard this cannot be accepted or tolerated in any branch of business, but is in the medical field under supervision of the CC. Why does the CC not show any interest in dealing with this issue? It appears to me that the CC's interest is not in line with the public interest.

I wished that the CC could have encouraged some of the private hospitals with a mediocre and less satisfactory standard of care to look up to the LBH and utilise some of its ideas and plans for improvement of their standards. The forced divestment of the LBH would be a huge blow to success, advancement, forward-thinking and everything which stands for excellence and high standard of care. As a consultant [X] who makes [X] patients' care [X] first and

foremost priority, I think the CC's decision is going to compromise my private patients' care and it certainly does not contribute to the improvement of the quality of care for private patients.

I would like to encourage the CC members to rethink their decision and consider as many aspects as possible in their decision making process.