

Consultant 79

4 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

Re. Private Healthcare Market Investigation and Competition Commission report

I am a [✂] Consultant working at London Bridge Hospital (LBH) and The Harley Street Clinic writing to you following The Competition Commission's ruling that the HCA group should divest two of its London hospitals, including LBH.

I am concerned about the impact divestiture would have on the HCA healthcare network and the service it is able to provide for its patients. As a hospital with a strong focus on Orthopaedic treatment, I would be very worried that selling London Bridge would result in the HCA's provision of care in this area being greatly diminished. This is of particular concern owing to the fact that there are no Orthopaedic Surgeons at other HCA hospitals such as The Harley Street Clinic.

A further reason for my concern is geographical. Patients who work in the city and live further afield will no longer benefit from the convenience of access to treatment in a central London Bridge location, which many use as a key commuter point. I am anxious that divestiture of LBH would result in patients missing appointments due to the need for them to travel elsewhere, which many simply do not have the time to fit in around work commitments. This would damage the quality of care and service we are currently able to offer to our patients.

My final point is that HCA hospitals offer an excellent revalidation support service that, for me, is a vital differentiator between the group and other institutions I have worked for. LBH's attitude to this revalidation process is personal and proactive, reiterating HCA's focus on patient safety. I would be concerned that, should London Bridge Hospital be sold, the quality of this process would be reduced, which can only have a negative effect on patient care.

I would ask you to seriously consider these three arguments against divestiture when making your final decision about the fate of London Bridge Hospital and The Princess Grace Hospital.