

## **Consultant 84**

31 January 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am a consultant oncologist working at Harley Street at Queen's in Romford, Essex, a facility managed by HCA.

I am aware that there has been a lot of interest in the press recently relating to the Monopolies Commission inquiry into private health care. Private health care providers have come under increased scrutiny and a great deal of criticism. I wished to make it clear that for the record HCA run a first class service and the commitment that they have made to privately insured patients in financial and organisational terms has been far greater than the oncologists at Queen's Hospital originally anticipated when HCA were first introduced to them. In particular and to name a few examples, the provision of a RMO dedicated to the small in-patient unit despite the fact that the Trust had originally intended to provide junior level support to the unit, the ability to see a patient, have the blood tests back within an hour and deliver chemotherapy shortly thereafter, and finally the introduction of the first Rapid Arc radiotherapy machine providing state of the art radiotherapy demonstrates that HCA are willing to go the extra mile in providing exemplary health care to either oncology patients.

I feel that the Monopolies Commission in their recent ruling are not appreciating just how much further HCA hospitals are willing to invest to provide a local first class service superior both to the local NHS and, indeed, other local private medical providers. I would be grateful if this could be taken into account when the ruling is scrutinised further by your department.