

Consultant 88

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Dear Mr Witcomb

I am concerned regarding the Competition Commission's recent publication, "Provisional Decision on Remedies" in respect of the HCA requirements to sell the London Bridge Hospital and the Princess Grace Hospital. I have worked with HCA and within its environment for the last 20 years and it is important to point out the high quality of HCA compared to other private sector healthcare providers that I have worked with is unimpeachable. Quality is the benchmark of this group and in every aspect HCA hospitals in my view outperform their competitors.

Divesting hospitals to other healthcare providers in my view would diminish quality rather than helping in competition. Whilst I understand that competition is generally in terms of market forces a good thing, I believe in this particular instance that the Competition Commission has got things wrong and that quality is not something that can be improved by competition. Quality in contrast, in my view, is due to the excellence of standards and the overall excellence of the care provided by HCA hospitals attracts the best Consultants and this becomes a self-affirming philosophy.