

## Consultant 89

3 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I am moved to comment on the Competition Commission's decision on HCA and potential break up of HCA Hospitals in London. I have worked as a London NHS and private Neurologist since [redacted]. In my private work I have been based at [redacted]. It is my experience that the HCA Hospital is superior in organisation, standard of patient care with high quality staff and superior facilities. At [redacted] Hospital I have been able to develop new services for patients, such as [redacted]. HCA have been supportive and encourage innovation. HCA is also very active at supporting continuing professional development, holding regular educational seminars at which I have lectured and attended.

In addition I would note that HCA have managed to do what the NHS has failed to do. It has an excellent patient management system that allows secure access to patients' investigations across several hospitals. Thus I can refer my patient to a fellow specialist of my choice, in another HCA establishment and know the important information will be available to that specialist, providing a safe and efficient service for the patient.

I suspect that divestment of the London Bridge Hospital from other HCA hospitals would have a negative impact on patient care, leading to fragmented care and loss of easy access to best practice across hospital sites. I would suggest that HCA Hospitals should not be broken up, but held up as an example to others as how to run their Hospitals.