

Consultant 96

3 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

I have recently been alerted to an investigation by your Commission, both through the media as well as the private hospitals that I work at.

I am a Consultant [X] Surgeon and I work full time in the National Health Service, though I do private practice in the private sector too. I work at HCA and [X], as well as other hospitals.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that I feel that the recent investigation and recommendations regarding HCA hospitals are not strictly correct. HCA hospitals have provided an excellent service to my patients and certainly the Wellington Hospital, which is my main base, has an excellent emergency unit which provides an alternative source of treatment for patients other than the overburdened Accident & Emergency services in the National Health Service. It also has excellent outpatient facilities throughout London.

One has to very carefully analyse the factors that are driving change in the private healthcare market. Certainly the role of the medical insurers has to be investigated. I do not feel that the current recommendations are completely valid and hope that you can take my thoughts into any future decisions regarding splitting up or selling some of the hospitals, as recommended by the recent decisions.