

**Consultant 99**

4 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb

**The Private Healthcare Market Investigation**

I would like to write to the Competition Commission with regards to their recent publication about the provisional report of the investigation into the private healthcare market. The report bears very little correlation to what I feel is a more significant problem. Private health insurance companies have acted not with the best interest of patients. They are trying to price fix which is anti-competitive, they try to persuade their patients to use specific providers again which is anti-competitive, they also try and go into arrangements with certain private hospitals to further fix prices to their benefit. All of the above are not within the competitive interests of an open market.

More importantly I find it frustrating that a well run private health care company like the HCA Healthcare company should be penalised. HCA Healthcare provides an astonishingly high level of quality both from an outpatient, inpatient and theatre point of view. They have the most up to date equipment and as such I preferentially choose to have my private patients managed in these hospitals given the access to the technologies that they provide. Why should a company that invests so heavily in their equipment, their staff and their facilities, be penalised.

I would be grateful to the Competition Commission if they actually investigated the main crux of the problem being the insurance companies; BUPA and AXA PPP in combination are actually a monopoly.

I do hope my letter does not fall upon deaf ears.