Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

14 May 2018

Dear Jeremy,

I have received the following correspondence from Dr Cliff Bucknall and Tim Cross of HCA Healthcare UK. In light of your comments made on 8 May I would be interested in hearing your response to the concerns highlighted in their letter found below.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP  
Chair of the Committee
Dear Dr Sarah Wollaston MP,

At HCA Healthcare UK, we believe it is in the interest of all patients that we are measured in exactly the same way as the NHS. At present, divergence exists between how the NHS and independent sector providers like ourselves are measured, which can make it difficult for patients to compare the care being provided.

We think the best way forward for all patients would be to dismantle the barriers which stand in the way of independent hospital groups like ourselves submitting data to national audits and registries.

This is why we’ve recently launched our campaign ‘Improving data transparency,’ which will seek to address this by achieving alignment with the NHS. A copy of which is enclosed for you.

At first, we would welcome the opportunity to submit to the Hospital Episode Statistics, published by NHS Digital, and over time to all national registries where we meet participatory criteria.
We’d welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we could work with your office to facilitate this change.

For after all we believe that achieving data alignment will help support patients across the whole healthcare eco-system, enhancing the practice of medicine and for continued improvement of human life.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Cliff Bucknall MD FRCP
Chief Medical Officer
HCA Healthcare UK

Tim Cross
Director of Clinical Information and Analytics
HCA Healthcare UK
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Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

12 SEP 2018

Dear Sarah

Data Transparency and Private Providers

Many thanks for your letter of 14th May addressed to Jeremy Hunt, concerning his comments about patient safety and acute care in the independent sector. Please accept my apologies for the long delay in replying.

I completely agree that we need to do much more to ensure that there is the same level and quality of transparency about safety and outcomes for patients and regulators regardless of whether treatment occurs in an NHS or non-NHS setting.

I am aware of HCA’s initiative and of the issues they have raised. You may also be aware that I have asked NHS Digital and the Private Healthcare Information Network to work together to inject pace and focus into the development of solutions to these issues. I am hopeful that HCA and others will engage with this process so that we can have an aligned approach across the sector.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK