Main Findings

These statistics cover a broad spectrum of estates and facilities aspects such as the size of the estate, levels of capital investment, quality of its buildings, single bedroom provision and hospital food.

The statistics are the first to be submitted by the NHS since the major restructuring of the NHS following the Health & Social Care Act 2012. The total number of NHS organisations reporting these statistics has significantly reduced from 349 in 2011-12 to 284 in 2012-13, mainly due to the abolition of Primary Care Trusts in April 2013. Year-on-year comparisons for some of the data will not be relevant because national data completeness is likely to have been compromised. This may be due to under-reporting of data arising whilst some organisations were in transition during 2012-13.

In these instances, year-on-year comparisons are provided for organisation types that have shown the least change during 2012-13, namely Acute, Ambulance and Mental Health with Learning Disability organisations.

The main findings for the year 2012-13 are:

- The total size of the NHS estate, measured by its floor area, was reported as 27.3 million m² in 2012-13. Comparing this figure to the equivalent organisations in 2011-12, this represents a small decrease of 0.5 per cent.

- Reported levels of capital investment across the NHS continue to decrease. This relates to the amount of capital invested for the upgrading, refurbishment, renewal and modernisation of buildings in the NHS estate. The total of £2,037 million reported for 2012-13 is a decrease of almost 9 per cent from the £2,231 million reported in 2011-12, and almost 40 per cent since the £3,321 million reported in 2010-11.

- The national total annual revenue cost to provide estate and hotel services, often referred to as the cost of occupancy, was reported as £7.4 billion in 2012-13. This figure is the total of the cost to provide the Estates Services element, known as the hard facilities management costs, at £4.5 billion and the Hotel Services costs at £2.9 billion, known as the soft facilities management costs. These figures do not include the costs of financing the estate e.g. depreciation and cost of capital. Overall, the direct costs of the NHS estate are therefore £7.4 billion which makes it the third largest cost for the NHS after staff costs and drugs.

- The cost to eradicate backlog maintenance across the NHS estate has shown a small increase of 0.3 per cent during the year. However, the element of the total backlog associated with the highest risk has risen by 19.2 per cent, an increase of £56.8 million during the year. Whilst the total national costs show a small increase overall, there are some significant fluctuations within individual NHS trusts.
The proportion of available beds which are single bedrooms was reported as 42.2 per cent in 2012-13. More than half of these [52.5 per cent] have full en-suite facilities. An en-suite facility can include a WC and a wash handbasin only or a WC with shower / bath and a wash handbasin.

On hospital food, the average cost of feeding one in-patient per day has increased by £1.10, from £8.77 in 2011-12 to £9.87 in 2012-13. This is the average daily cost for the provision of all meals and beverages fed to one in-patient per day. Figures reported by the NHS continue to show a wide variation of hospital food costs across hospital sites.

Also on hospital food, the total number of in-patient main meals requested by in-patients during 2012-13 was 142.3 million. An in-patient main meal is defined as either a breakfast, midday or evening meal which has been ordered by an inpatient or day patient from a ward or department.

At hospital sites where car parking charges are made and data was supplied, the average fee per hour for visitor and patient car parking in 2012-13 was £1.15. This relates to 400 hospitals sites that made charges and supplied data. This represents no change from 2011-12 when the average charge was also £1.15.