**Condition of the Estate (COTE) Survey**

Please read the introductory information outlined in the overview document before completing the survey. This is available as a separate attachment to the offline version of the survey questions.

At Research England, we are undertaking a piece of work to better understand the current state of research infrastructure (buildings and capital equipment) across the English higher education sector. This work, termed the Condition of the Estate (COTE), aims to gather valuable evidence from across the English HEP landscape to highlight the importance of investment into research infrastructure as a fundamental and underpinning element of the of wider research ecosystem. We would be very grateful if you could support this endeavour by completing the linked survey.

**Contact details**

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| 1. *Background information*

Please provide the following information. |
| 1.1 | Your name |
| 1.2 | Your email address |
| 1.3 | Your higher education provider (HEP)/organisation (Please select from the drop-down list)  |
| 1.4 | Your role at your respective HEP |

**Survey Questions**

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| 1. ***Non-residential estate data***

Please utilise and refer to data from your HEP’s recent HESA EMR returns, where appropriate. Although the majority of information will pertain to HEPs' primary sites and campuses, infrastructure not located on these such satellite research facilities should be included in responses to appropriately reflect the full extent of research infrastructure in which HEPs have invested.For the purposes of the questions, the research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.Research estate and research infrastructure are used interchangeably and mean the same thing for this survey. |
| **Core questions (required)**The first set of 4 questions for this section are compulsory and will provide Research England with a baseline level of understanding about the proportion of HEPs’ non-residential estate that is used for research activities, and its current occupation and physical condition. |
| **No.** | **Question** | **Output** |
| 2.1 | Of the HEP’s non-residential estate, approximately what is the proportion that is used for research-related activities?This should include any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met. Please base this on gross internal area of the space (GIA, m2). Please provide the figure as a percentage. | Figure - % |
| 2.2 | What is the current overall value of the HEP’s research estate? This should include any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met. | Figure - £ |
| 2.3  | Of the HEP's research-related non-residential estate (from 2.1), what is the proportion that is used for predominantly research purposes? In this case, predominantly used for research purposes is defined as greater than 75% of the available time being used for research activities. Please provide the figure as a percentage.  | Figure - % |
| 2.4 | Approximately, what are the current levels of occupancy for the HEP’s research estate?The research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.Please provide figures as a percentage for each of the available option to the nearest 5%. The collated total for all options should equal 100%. | % for each option to total 100%* Excellent occupation
* Above average occupation
* Below average occupation
* Extremely poor/ no occupation
 |
| 2.5  | How would the HEP assess the current physical condition of the HEP's research estate?The research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.Please provide figures as a percentage for each of the available option to the nearest 5% using the EMR definitions for condition assessment. Condition assessment definitions are outlined [here](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22042/a/conditionassessmentdefinition). The collated total for all options should equal 100%. | % for each option to total 100%* Excellent (EMR A)
* Above average (EMR B)
* Below average (EMR C)
* Extremely poor (EMR D)
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| **Additional questions (optional but encouraged)**The following 5 questions are optional for HEPs to provide responses to. Research England would encourage HEPs to provide this information, where possible, as it will provide valuable contextualisation to the core questions for this section. More detailed data sets across the HEP landscape will enable Research England to more compelling case for increased infrastructure funding in the future. We appreciate that HEPs may only be able to provide answers to certain questions.The research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met. Research estate and research infrastructure are used interchangeably and mean the same thing for this survey. |
| 2.6 | What is the approximate proportion of the research estate that is currently being used as intended?The research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.Please provide figures as a percentage for each of the available option to the nearest 5%. The collated total for all options should equal 100%. | % for each option to total 100%* Used for intended purpose
* Used but for unintended purpose
* Used for both intended and unintended purposes
* Not used but usable
* Not used and unusable
* Other (free text option)
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| 2.7 | How would the HEP assess the effective use of the research and mixed-use non-residential estate based on its current usage? The research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met. Please base this on the [functional suitability](https://hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22042/a/functionalsuitability) of the infrastructure and how successful it is at enabling research and related activities to take place, either within the space or on the piece of equipment. Please provide figures as a percentage for each of the available option to the nearest 5%. The collated total for all options should equal 100%. | % for each option to total 100%* Excellent effective use
* Above average effective use
* Below average effective use
* Extremely poor/ ineffective use
 |
| 2.8 | Approximately, what proportion of the HEP’s research-related non-residential infrastructure is fully accessible for wheelchair users or those with access needs (e.g. those with sight or hearing impairment)? | Select one option* 0-20%
* 20-40%
* 40-60%
* 60-80%
* 80-100%
 |
| 2.9 | Approximately, what proportion of the HEP’s research-related non-residential infrastructure is meeting the HEP’s organisational sustainability and Net Zero ambitions? | Select one option * 0-20%
* 20-40%
* 40-60%
* 60-80%
* 80-100%
 |
| 2.10 | Please provide any relevant additional details in relation to Section 2 (non-residential estate data) as appropriate. Please ensure you reference relevant questions in your response, as necessary. In particular, we would be interested in summaries of any key challenges the HEP your HEP has previously faced or is currently facing in relation to:* the usage of your HEP's research estate
* the occupation of your HEP's research estate
* the physical condition of your HEP's research estate
 | Free text |

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| 1. ***Recent/current infrastructure funding***

Please utilise and refer to data from your HEP’s recent HESA EMR returns, where appropriate.Although the majority of information will pertain to HEPs' primary sites and campuses, infrastructure not located on these such satellite research facilities should be included in responses to appropriately reflect the full extent of research infrastructure in which HEPs have invested.For the purposes of the questions, the research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.Research estate and research infrastructure are used interchangeably and mean the same thing for this survey. |
| **Core questions (required)**The following 6 questions for this section are compulsory and will provide Research England with baseline data to understand the HEPs’ spending on its research-related non-residential estate and the sources of funding that are used to facilitate these activities. |
| **No.** | **Question** | **Output** |
| 3.1 | On average, how much did the HEP typically spend annually on existing research-related buildings over the past 5 years? Please include costs relating to replacement of existing capabilities (i.e. like for like) and costs relating to the housing of e-infrastructure (i.e. server rooms) but exclude costs relating to wholly new capabilities from this figure (i.e. new buildings which upgrades the HEP’s offering).  | Figure - £ |
| 3.2 | On average, how much did the HEP typically spend annually on new research-related buildings over the past 5 years? Please only include costs relating to wholly new capabilities from this figure (i.e. new buildings which upgrades the HEP’s offering). | Figure - £ |
| 3.3 | On average, how much did the HEP typically spend annually on existing research-related equipment over the past 5 years? Please include costs relating to replacement of existing capabilities (i.e. like for like) and costs relating to e-infrastructure equipment (i.e. servers) but exclude costs relating to wholly new capabilities from this figure (i.e. new equipment which upgrades the HEP’s offering). | Figure - £ |
| 3.4 | On average, how much did the HEP typically spend annually on new research-related equipment over the past 5 years? Please only include costs relating to wholly new capabilities from this figure (i.e. new equipment which upgrades the HEP’s offering). | Figure - £ |
| 3.5 | What funding streams or sources, other than its Research England research infrastructure funding, does the HEP use to supplement paying for maintenance or refurbishment its existing research-related infrastructure?Please select all that apply to your organisation. If other, please provide additional details. | Select all options that apply* Quality-related (QR) funding from Research England
* Other Research England funding schemes (e.g. E3, UKRPIF)
* Pan-UKRI grants (e.g. SIPF, Infrastructure Fund)
* Research grants from other UKRI councils (including InnovateUK)
* Research grants from business and charities
* Cross-subsidisation of other income streams (e.g. teaching income)
* Commercial/ investment income
* Donations and endowments
* Loans and finance
* Other non-UKRI UK funding bodies
* Non-UK funding bodies
* None
* Other income streams not listed (free text)
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| 3.6 | What funding streams or sources, other than its Research England research infrastructure funding, does the HEP use to supplement paying for developing its existing research-related infrastructure beyond its current capabilities (i.e. new infrastructure)?Please select all that apply to your organisation. If other, please provide additional details. | Select all options that apply* Quality-related (QR) funding from Research England
* Other Research England funding schemes (e.g. E3, UKRPIF)
* Pan-UKRI grants (e.g. SIPF, Infrastructure Fund)
* Research grants from other UKRI councils (including InnovateUK)
* Research grants from business and charities
* Cross-subsidisation of other income streams (e.g. teaching income)
* Commercial/ investment income
* Donations and endowments
* Loans and finance
* Other non-UKRI UK funding bodies
* Non-UK funding bodies
* None
* Other income streams not listed (free text)
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| **Additional questions (optional but encouraged)**The following set of 9 questions are optional for HEPs to provide responses to. Research England would encourage HEPs to provide this information, where possible, as it will provide valuable contextualisation to the core questions for this section. More detailed data sets across the HEP landscape will enable Research England to more compelling case for increased infrastructure funding in the future. We appreciate that HEPs may only be able to provide answers to certain questions. For the purposes of the questions, the research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.Research estate and research infrastructure are used interchangeably and mean the same thing for this survey. |
| 3.7 | On average, what proportion of the HEP’s typical annual research infrastructure overall spend over the past 5 years related to e-infrastructure? Please include costs relating to replacement of existing capabilities (i.e. like for like) as well as costs relating to wholly new capabilities from this figure (i.e. new e-infrastructure which upgrades the HEP’s offering). Details of what we describe as e-infrastructure for the purposes of this survey are listed below. * Large scale compute facilities (including high-throughput, high-performance, and cloud computing)
* Data storage facilities
* Networking
 | Figure - % |
| 3.8 | Over the past 5 years, on average what has the HEP spent the majority of its research-related infrastructure funding on? Please select 5 of the following options in order of priority. If other, please provide additional details. | Select up to 5 options from list* New buildings
* General maintenance of buildings
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of buildings
* Replacement of buildings
* New equipment
* General maintenance of equipment
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of equipment
* Replacement of equipment
* New e-infrastructure
* General maintenance of e-infrastructure
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of e-infrastructure
* Replacement of e-infrastructure
* Environmental sustainability
* Accessibility
* Utilities and infrastructure usage costs
* Other (free text option)
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| 3.9 | Over the past 5 years, on average what activities has the HEP’s focused on in relation to their research-related infrastructure? Please select 5 of the following options in order of priority. If other, please provide additional details.*Please note this should align with the time and effort allocated to activities rather than the amount of funding spent on activities. However, we appreciate these may be inextricably linked.* | Select up to 5 options from list* New buildings
* General maintenance of buildings
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of buildings
* Replacement of buildings
* New equipment
* General maintenance of equipment
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of equipment
* Replacement of equipment
* New e-infrastructure
* General maintenance of e-infrastructure
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of e-infrastructure
* Replacement of e-infrastructure
* Environmental sustainability
* Accessibility
* Utilities and infrastructure usage costs
* Other (free text option)
 |
| 3.10 | Where does investment into research infrastructure fit within the HEP's current strategic vision and priorities? | Select one option* Extremely high
* High
* Average
* Low
* Extremely low
 |
| 3.11 | If there are financial pressures on the HEP, how likely is it that investment into research infrastructure will be reduced in priority over other areas? | Select one option* Extremely high
* High
* Average
* Low
* Extremely low
 |
| 3.12 | On average, what proportion of the HEP’s annual research infrastructure budget has been spent on planned/strategic activities versus reactive/emergency activities over the past 5 years? | Figure (strategic) - %Figure (reactive) - % |
| 3.13 | If the HEP has required to pay for reactive/emergency activities on its research estate (such as urgent repairs), how often has the HEP had to use funds outside of their anticipated or allocated research infrastructure budget (such as non-ring fenced or flexible funding) to supplement the cost of these activities?  | Select one option * Almost always
* Often
* Sometimes
* Rarely
* Never
 |
| 3.14 | Please provide any specific examples of how the RCIF funding that your institution receives from RE allows your HEP to tackle infrastructure-related challenges that other funding streams are unable to? Examples of this could include but are not limited to:* Emergency maintenance of research infrastructure
* Repurposing or refurbishment of existing infrastructure
* General upkeep of the HEP’s estate.
 | Free text |
| 3.15 | Please provide any relevant additional details in relation to Section 3 (recent/current infrastructure funding) as appropriate. Please ensure you reference relevant questions in your response, as necessary. In particular we would be extremely interested in summaries of any key challenges your HEP has previously faced or is currently facing in relation to:* The maintenance and development of its research estate
* The decision-making processes for how the HEP allocates research infrastructure funding
* How the HEP shares its research estate with other HEPs/institutions
 | Free text |

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| 1. ***Future capital infrastructure funding***

For the following questions, please ignore any additional limitations such as resource and planning.Although the majority of information will pertain to HEPs' primary sites and campuses, infrastructure not located on these such satellite research facilities should be included in responses to appropriately reflect the full extent of research infrastructure in which HEPs have invested. |
| **Core questions (required)**The next 4 questions for this section are compulsory and will provide Research England with a detailed understand HEPs’ future research infrastructure funding needs. |
| **No.** | **Question** | **Output** |
| 4.1 | What amount of capital funding would your HEP require to bring its research estate up to a fully operational and workable condition? | Figure - £ |
| 4.2 | What would this amount (in 4.1) represent as a percentage of your HEP’s current annual research infrastructure budget? | Figure - % |
| 4.3 | What is the annual amount of capital funding that the HEP would require additionally to the figure from 4.1 to maintain a steady state of a fully operational research estate? | Figure - £ |
| 4.4 | On top of the figure from 4.3, what further amount of capital funding would be required for the HEP to meet its longer-term strategic research infrastructure ambitions over the next 5 years? | Figure - £ |
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| **Additional questions (optional but encouraged)**The final 3 questions are optional for HEPs to provide responses to. Research England would encourage HEPs to provide this information, where possible, as it will provide valuable contextualisation to the core questions for this section. More detailed data sets across the HEP landscape will enable Research England to more compelling case for increased infrastructure funding in the future. We appreciate that HEPs may only be able to provide answers to certain questions. |
| 4.5 | What is the HEP strategically prioritising to spend its research infrastructure budget on over the next 5 years? Please select 5 of the following options in order of priority. If other, please provide additional details. | Select up to 5 options from list* New buildings
* General maintenance of buildings
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of buildings
* Replacement of buildings
* New equipment
* General maintenance of equipment
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of equipment
* Replacement of equipment
* New e-infrastructure
* General maintenance of e-infrastructure
* Complete refurbishment/ repurposing of e-infrastructure
* Replacement of e-infrastructure
* Environmental sustainability
* Accessibility
* Utilities and infrastructure usage costs
* Other (free text option)
 |
| 4.6 | Where is the greatest need for strategically targeted research infrastructure investment from Government for your HEP? Please as many of the following options that are applicable. If you do not feel any would be of value to your HEP, please select none. | Select all options that apply* Energy efficiency
* Environmental sustainability
* Accessibility
* Infrastructure maintenance
* Repurposing/ refurbishment of existing infrastructure
* E-infrastructure
* New capabilities
* None
* Other (free text option)
 |
| 4.7 | Please provide any relevant additional details in relation to this section (future capital infrastructure funding) as appropriate. Please ensure you reference relevant questions in your response, as necessary. In particular we would be extremely interested in summaries of any key considerations your HEP may face in relation to the future funding needs and the financial sustainability of its research estate. | Free text |