



# CONSTRUCTION PLATFORMS IN HEALTHCARE

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AKERLOF

# PLATFORM

A term that is widely used but, with consistent features:

- a set of common (low variety) core assets (i.e. components, processes, knowledge, people and relationships);
- a complementary set of peripheral components that exhibit high variety;
- and stable interfaces that act as a bridge between the common core and variable peripherals, permitting innovation in the core and peripherals.

By replicating the common assets multiple times, platform owners and participants are able to realise benefits such as efficiencies and economies of scale.

The use of interchangeable peripheral components affords diversity and distinct offerings, that can facilitate mass customisation.

*Adapted from Transforming Construction Network Plus Digest, 2020 (and Robertson and Ulrich -1998)*

# CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<b>PART 1</b> <b>INTRODUCTION</b>	INTRODUCTION 1,659 SCHEMES 407 CONTRACTORS 288 ARCHITECTS 285 CONSULTANTS 359 ENGINEERS 112 OTHERS	<b>PART 2</b> <b>WHAT ARE PLATFORMS?</b>	PLATFORMS PRINCIPLES	BENEFITS	BENEFITS OF A PLATFORM APPROACH	THE CHALLENGES			
PLATFORMS IN HEALTHCARE	SUPPORTING THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN	<b>PART 3</b> <b>THE TRUSTS</b>	THE NHS TRUSTS	CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROFILE	THE SHAPE OF THE NHS TRUSTS	DISAGGREGATED DEMAND	CONSISTENTLY PROGRESSIVE	<b>PART 4</b> <b>HISTORICAL PIPELINE</b>		
WORK TYPE	GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	PROJECT SIZE	WHERE IS OUR PLATFORM FOCUSED?	PROJECT TO PORTFOLIO	<b>PART 5</b> <b>ARCHITECTS</b>	ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES	THE LONG (BUT IMPORTANT) TAIL			
DELIVERING AT SCALE	THE PRIORITY DELIVERING THE MAJORITY	SCHEMES DELIVERED PER ARCHITECT	REGIONAL VS NATIONAL CAPABILITY	STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS	<b>PART 6</b> <b>ENGINEERS STRUCTURAL+MEP</b>	STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS	STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, A FAMILIAR TAIL			
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS	M&E ENGINEERS	HEP ENGINEERS	ANOTHER FAMILIAR TAIL	HEP SERVICES	<b>PART 7</b> <b>CONTRACTORS</b>	CONTRACTORS	DELIVERING AT SCALE	REGIONAL VS NATIONAL DELIVERY	FRAMEWORKS	ENGAGEMENT
KEY MARKET CONTRACTORS ON GGP+ HEALTHCARE SCHEMES	<b>PART 8</b> <b>NEW HOSPITALS PROGRAMME</b>	NEW HOSPITAL PROGRAMME (NHP)	DISTRIBUTION OF NHP PROJECTS	<b>PART 9</b> <b>REFLECTIONS</b>	MARKET SUITED TO PLATFORMING?	PLATFORM STRATEGY	DEFINING THE NEED	PLANNING, PRIORITISATION AND APPROVAL OF WORKS	ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE	
KNOWLEDGE CURATION	SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	REFERENCES	AEROLOP	A-Z OF THE NHS TRUSTS	<b>AKERLOF</b>					



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Despite its reputation for adopting innovation slowly, the construction industry has quickly embraced the concept of ‘platforms’. By leveraging commonality of design, components, process or relationships across aggregated portfolios of work, the application of a platform-based approach offers the nirvana of delivering customisable buildings at scale, consistently and predictably better, faster and greener.**

The ambition to realise this opportunity has been firmly driven by Government, enshrining platforms within recent policy such as the Construction Playbook and Transforming Infrastructure Performance Roadmap to 2030. The latter outlined a vision of how platform approaches could drive a new market, “generating greater societal outcomes by enabling a disaggregated manufacturing industry that creates stable and inclusive employment where jobs are most needed”. With the prospect of the biggest hospital building programme in a generation, adding to its already significant scale (with an average budget of £2.4bn per annum for capital works), the Department of Health and Social Care is expected to embrace and apply platforms to realise its ambitions.

In many respects, the healthcare sector has a heritage of applying platform principles through its way of working: For example:

- » The creation of the Health Building Notes (HBNs), over 60 years ago was designed to embed consistency and commonality across a largely decentralised organisation, in a manner that accommodated local practice.
- » In modern-day healthcare design, the use of repeatable rooms and standard component libraries has been leveraged to deliver capital and operational efficiencies, alongside improvements in quality.

Despite these shining examples, further opportunities exist. Albeit pointed towards the delivery of clinical services, the Carter Review highlighted a “failure to capture the benefits of scale” and a need for greater collaboration and cooperation across the NHS to drive efficiencies. The strategy to address this challenge, however, recognising the organisational complexities of the NHS, will be both difficult to define and equally hard to implement.

This report has been developed to inform the thought-process behind any emerging strategy and evaluate the extent to which platform principles could be applied to the NHSE/I capital works portfolio. Whilst others have typically gravitated towards analysing the commonality and diversity of technical requirements, we have instead focused our attention upon the rich picture of market actors and their inter-relationships, to determine to what extent the current eco-system may facilitate or challenge a platform-based approach.

Aggregating multiple data sources (not least Freedom of Information returns from individual Trusts) we have developed and mapped the profile of the historical pipeline of capital works projects (valued at over £1m) completed between 2010 – 2020.

This analysis has reaffirmed the fragmentation and diversity of the Trusts themselves, with a broad range of sizes, service provision, local site characteristics and challenges. This is not to suggest however that there are no points of commonality.

Across the estate, capital investment is consistently split between new build and refurbishment, alongside a rapidly-growing backlog maintenance demand, now estimated to be worth £9.2bn.

There is a repetitious volume of lower value work, with circa 140 projects (valued between £1m - £10m) completed per annum. Conforming to the Pareto principle, this activity represents 80% of schemes by number, but only 20% of cost expenditure. The balance and bulk of investment is instead channelled towards larger-scale projects.

With the New Hospitals programme in motion, this profile is likely to become even more polarised. The quantity of schemes valued at more than £100m is projected to almost double this decade relative to the previous, with significant growth in the median size of schemes. The experience of delivering new projects worth at scale is a small and exclusive club, with a minority membership across all industry roles. Across both the professional design and main contracting fraternities the market is split principally into two distinct clusters:

- » A long tail of organisations working on single, often low-value projects, typically as part of a broader portfolio of construction work
- » A select group of healthcare specialists or market leaders that delivers regularly, often at scale.

The ability of either cluster to be able to scale and meet the future projected demand is an important question mark, offering encouragement to new market entrants. Equally this question around capacity and capability is not exclusive to the supply market, this review also queries the preparedness of the estate’s teams themselves.

In 2017, the Naylor report challenged the depth of “skills and capacity in estates strategy and management”; the recent pressures of the pandemic and an impending growth in capital works may only serve to exacerbate this point.

These challenges reflects one dimension of a complex scenario, with systemic adjustments required within NHSE/I and client-side to realise the benefits of platform-based approach.

The Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP) acknowledged that a reformed system underpinning capital was required to make NHS fit for the future. The current system appears geared towards driving greater predictability in construction programmes, whilst the timescales for business case preparation and approvals continue to fluctuate, leaving ambiguity and uncertainty of demand. Modernisation of the planning, prioritisation and approval of works will be a critical step in enabling portfolio opportunities to be identified as a precursor to leveraging the benefits of platforms.

Similarly, the devolved status of the Trusts and independency of projects is a challenge to a platform-based approach. An organisational structure that provides degrees of centralised coordination is likely to be required, however, exactly where to draw the line across a complex network will need careful consideration.

Furthermore, to successfully embed platform principles a step-change in information sharing will be required across the healthcare network. The current lack of continuity of work at a project level represents a system inefficiency and blocker to the communication of lessons learnt and establishment of feedback loops. Whilst frameworks such as CCS and ProCure have enabled knowledge exchange, more can be done to create a state of shared consciousness amongst many independent organisations, rather than a select few. Collegiate forums such as Architects for Health have an instrumental role in providing momentum behind the collective responsibility of developing a culture of cooperative competition that supports continuous improvement across the sector level.

Taking forward these recommendations will be neither straightforward nor offer a quick fix; adopting a platform-based approach attracts a number of paradoxes and challenges. To realise sustainable value, a long-term strategy is therefore required, extending beyond the development of technical solutions and addressing managed change in process, skills and culture.

To achieve this will require commitment, drive and education –guiding and supporting both the supply market and those working client-side, within estates departments and professional advisory roles, to cultivate the conditions that enable transformational change. Their role in shifting the way of working will be as pivotal, if not more so, than the supply market response.

**PART I**

**INTRODUCTION**



# INTRODUCTION

How we deliver our buildings is regularly cited as inefficient and unproductive; too often focused upon bespoke outputs delivered in project silos. With an established case for change, the government announced its commitment to Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) in 2017 with the presumption in favour of offsite construction. In December 2020, government expanded on this, via the Construction Playbook and by setting out specific proposals relating to “A Platform approach to Design for Manufacture and Assembly (P-DfMA)”.

Publication of the IPA’s Transforming Infrastructure Performance: Roadmap to 2030 has moved this further forward: outlining the vision and focus within government towards leveraging the use of platforms (standard, repeatable assets with interoperable components) to generate improved societal outcomes from its pipeline, enabling a “disaggregated manufacturing industry that creates stable and inclusive employment where jobs are most needed”.

As part of the long-term health infrastructure plan, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) alongside the Department of Health and Social Care have embraced these principles. The New Hospital’s Programme (NHP) has expressed its commitment towards a platform led approach, not least through the standardisation of processes and commonality of components and commodities.

*“The NHP will embrace a holistic approach to MMC. We will maximise the use of digital design to drive a platform led kit of parts approach to achieve a step-change in productivity, cost-effectiveness, timeliness of delivery and carbon efficiencies”*

**- New Hospitals Programme**

As the NHSE/I and NHP look forward to defining their future route map, we have taken this opportunity to look backwards – to review the historical pipeline of works commissioned by NHS Trusts and completed since 2010. Within this report, we aggregate and analyse historical data to profile the typology of historical work, the key market actors and their relationships, to evaluate the existing potential for adopting a platform-based approach across the NHS capital estate portfolio.

## THE DATA

In promoting a platform-based approach, the Construction Innovation Hub’s ‘Defining the Need’ report analysed a forecast £50bn five-year new build pipeline to determine how, as a proof of concept, future demand could be harmonised, digitised and rationalised. This demonstrated the power of an evidence-based approach to understanding the public sector estate, identifying synergies and otherwise untapped programmatic efficiencies.

Whilst the Hub chose to analyse a forward pipeline projection, this report instead reviews historical data to inform and evaluate the extent to which platform principles could be applied to the NHS capital works portfolio.

Informed by NHS Digital data (inc Estates Returns Information Collection) alongside intelligence received directly from Trusts and the supply market, we have mapped the profile of NHS capital works projects over £1m (excluding backlog maintenance) completed since 2010\*, capturing:

- » Over £20 billion investment
- » Over 1,659 projects delivered across:
  - » 212 Different Trusts
  - » 407 Different Contractors
  - » 288 Different Architects
  - » 259 Different Structural Engineers
  - » 285 Different Mechanical & Electrical Engineers

In aggregating this data we have created a rich picture of the historical pipeline commissioned by NHS Trusts and the profile of the supply market working in delivering public sector healthcare schemes across England.

Against this backdrop, we have overlaid the profile of the planned 40 new hospitals to provide observation, insight and recommendations for consideration.

**1,659**  
SCHEMES

**407**  
CONTRACTORS

**288**  
ARCHITECTS

**285**  
MECHANICAL  
+ ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERS

**259**  
STRUCTURAL  
ENGINEERS

**212**  
TRUSTS

*\* We recognise our data isn’t perfect, so if you do spot something you think isn’t quite right then please give us a call – we’d love to talk it through.*

**PART 2**

**WHAT ARE PLATFORMS?**

# PLATFORMS PRINCIPLES

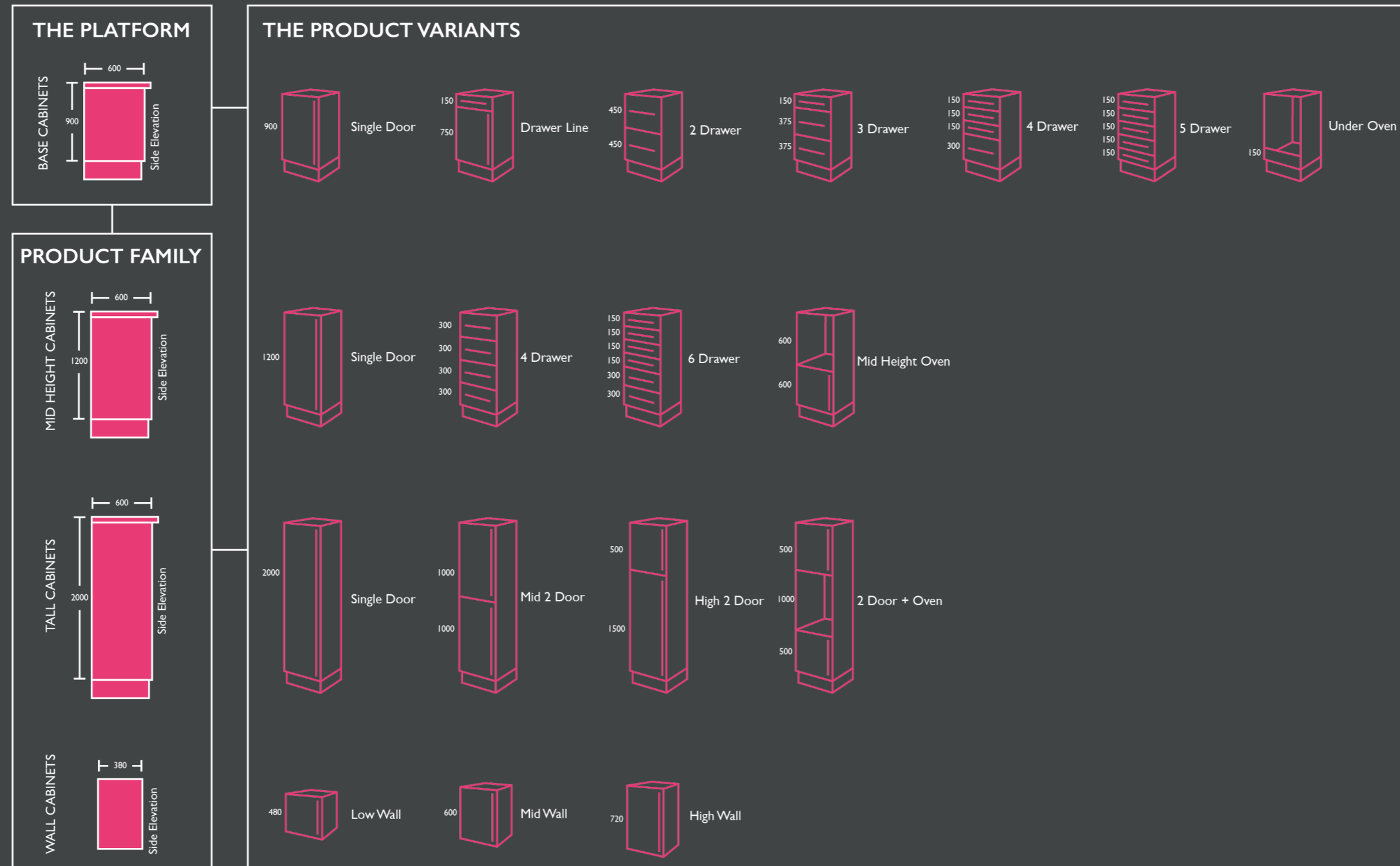
The word “platform” is used in everyday conversation, often in varying contexts: physical platforms, digital platforms, industry platforms, product platforms..... etc.

Synonymous with themes of standardisation and repeatability, platforms typically feature:

- » a set of common (low variety) core assets (typically components, processes, knowledge, people or relationships)
- » a complementary set of peripheral components that exhibit high variety;
- » and stable interfaces that act as a bridge between the common core asset and variable peripherals, permitting innovation in the core and peripherals.

As a simplistic illustration of the concept, we would encourage you to consider the humble kitchen cabinet unit. The dimensions of cabinet sizes (and for that matter appliances) are generally standard across the country. In standardising a common unit size, manufacturers can produce core, low variety carcasses at scale whilst simultaneously offering a wide selection of configurations, functions and aesthetic features to suit individual choice in kitchens across the country.

Similar principles apply across a range of products and solutions that we all use on a daily basis. And yet our delivery of buildings is predominantly delivered as bespoke, one-offs.



By applying the principles of common components, processes, knowledge and relationships, platforms have been successfully applied in manufacturing to deliver mass customised products and solutions at a reduced cost, faster and with lower risk. Seeking to offset issues such as low productivity, poor predictability and industry fragmentation, construction has regularly been encouraged to follow suit.

In 2017, Bryden Wood issued a seminal paper that brought this into closer focus; laying challenge as to whether the adoption of a platform-based approach could be applied in construction to stimulate a market capable of delivering high quality, low-carbon assets and unlock:

- » Economies of scale and product development efficiencies (economies of scope)
- » Whole-life value.
- » Enhanced residual asset value and
- » Mass customisation, adapted to a client’s needs.

This vision articulated the government’s strategic aim to leverage benefits across government spending by using standard, repeatable processes, designs and components.

*“By increasing scale, platforms can achieve the economies (of scale) and consistency of pipeline that unlock the benefits of manufacturing”*

Bryden Wood (2017)

Publications such as the Construction Playbook, “a Platform approach to Design for Manufacture and Assembly (P-DfMA)” and most recently the Transforming Infrastructure Performance: Roadmap to 2030 have reaffirmed a policy towards “procurement of construction projects based on product platforms comprising of standardised and interoperable components and assemblies”.

The latter identifies the aspiration “to generate greater societal outcomes from its pipeline by enabling a disaggregated manufacturing industry that creates stable and inclusive employment where jobs are most needed”.





# BENEFITS

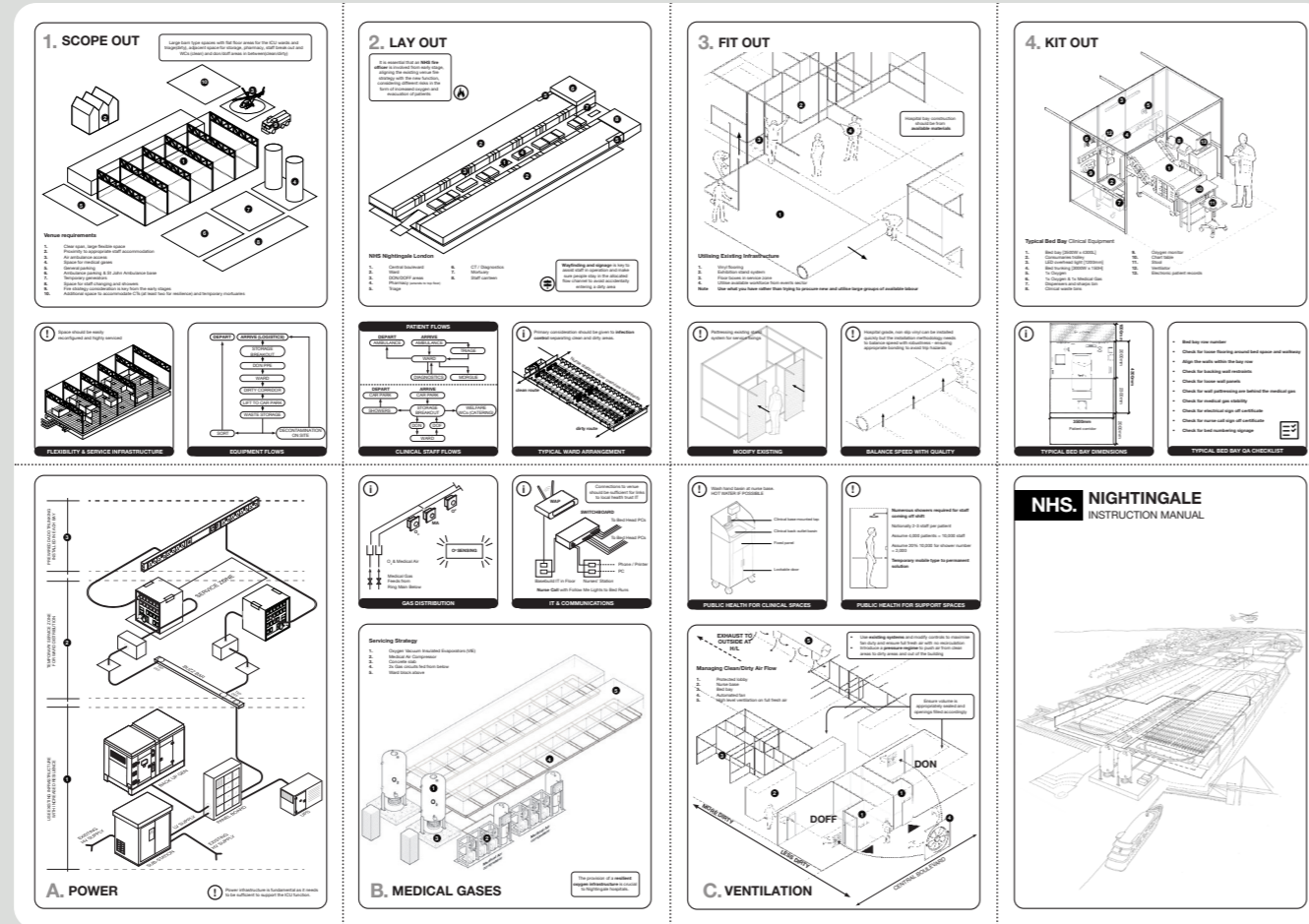
A platform-based approach is typically adopted to create a variety of products, on a reduced cost base. By sharing components and processes across a platform, companies can develop distinct products and solutions efficiently, whilst maintaining economies of scale and scope.

By shifting the horizon from individual projects to programmes, platforms offer the potential to leverage the re-use of knowledge, relationships and process to:

- » Offset learning curves
- » Mitigate repeat work and instead enable focused effort of all parties towards areas that add real value
- » Reduce complexity and instead enhanced predictability and certainty of time, cost and quality
- » Facilitate feedback loops that support continuous improvement (that truly apply Government Soft Landings) as opposed to repetitious reinvention

In healthcare, where significant user engagement is often absorbed in early design development, the opportunity to realise efficiencies through repeated use of space-planning principles and operation policies is sizeable.

During the pandemic, this was illustrated via BDP's development of the NHS Nightingale Instruction Manual. In establishing standard principles, adaptable to suit site specifics, the manual strategically applied a platform approach to expedite the design and delivery of a national programme, that learned from initial experiences at London's Excel Centre.



Courtesy: BDP <https://www.bdp.com/globalassets/projects/nhs-nightingale-hospital/nhs-nightingale-instruction-manual.pdf>

*“Adopting a more manufacturing-led approach to public works projects and programmes will improve productivity and deliver better value for money”*

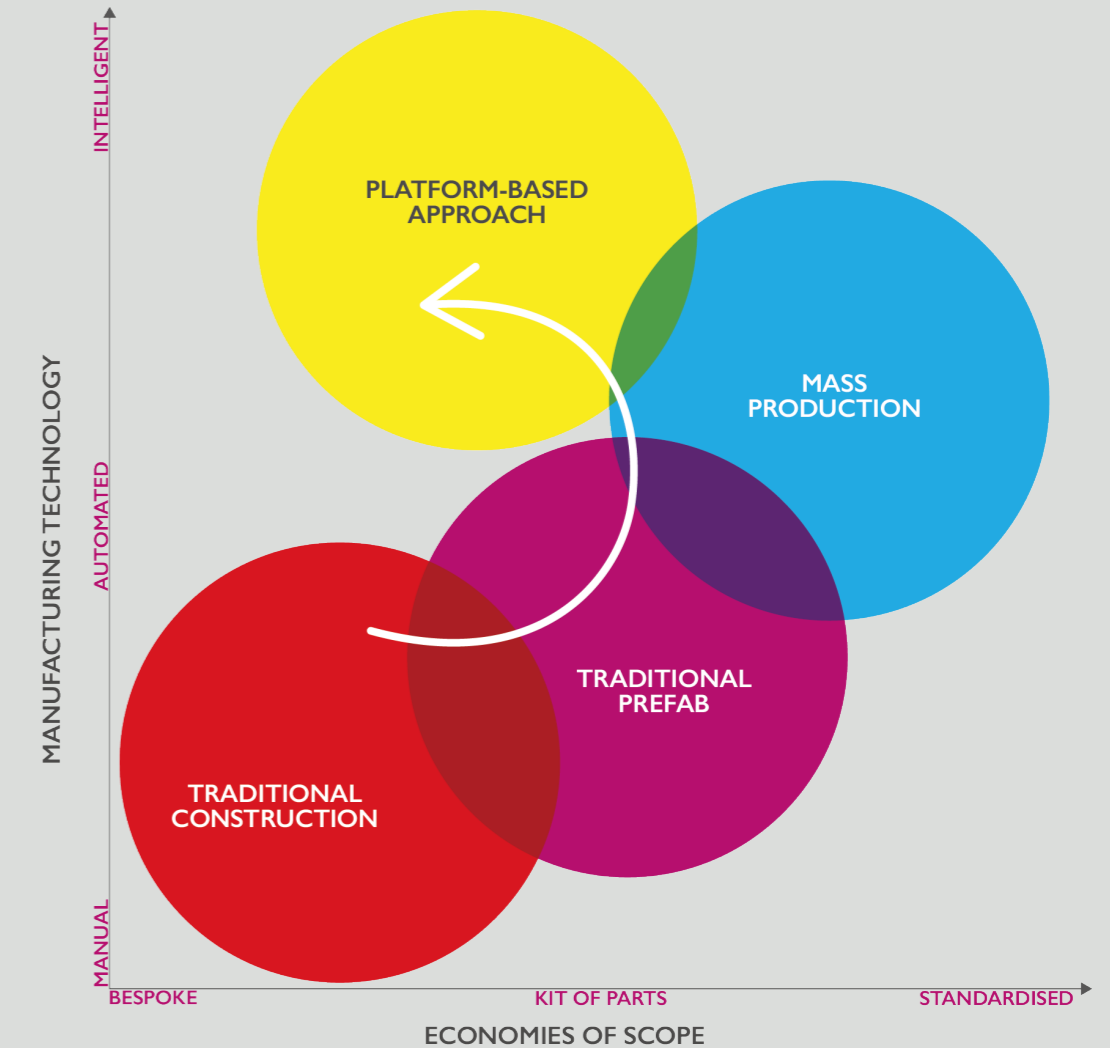
**Construction Playbook**

The adoption of platform principles also offers a new paradigm to the construction industry by opening the door to a manufacturing-led approach. This affords the potential for benefits in both produced and natural capital:

- Produced:
- » Improved productivity, efficiency and predictability
  - » Reduction of on-site safety risk and labour congestion
  - » Enhanced quality control, with reduction of defects (due to factory quality assurance and techniques such as construction product quality planning (CPQP))
  - » Testing and commissioning in cleaner, protected facilities rather than on-site
- Natural:
- » Reduction in waste
  - » A greener approach, with a reduction in carbon footprint and impact upon the local environment
  - » Supports industry capable of transitioning to net zero.

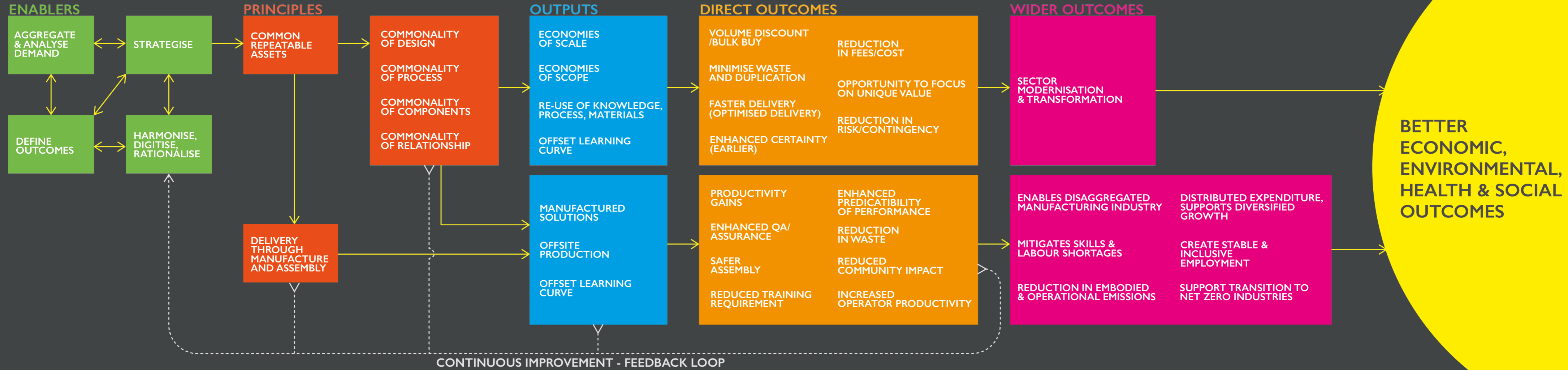
All of the above create opportunities to reduce project costs and deliver enhanced value.

The potential ripple effect is equally appealing at an industry and societal level. The aggregation of demand and harmonisation of requirements for platform solutions unlocks opportunities for a wider, more diverse supply base, cultivating conditions that support the engagement of a disaggregated manufacturing industry.



Adapted from a graphic created by Oliver David Kreig at Intelligent City.

# BENEFITS OF A PLATFORM APPROACH



# THE CHALLENGES

Whilst most research espouses the benefits of platforms, it is not a silver bullet. It is instead a strategic choice, requiring a clear vision and measured application to ensure it is appropriate to the context in which it is applied.

Key decisions surrounding the business case, the target market and the intended benefits are critical; so too is defining the divide between commonality and distinctiveness, to achieve the sensitive balance between standardisation and the need for distinction and flexibility.

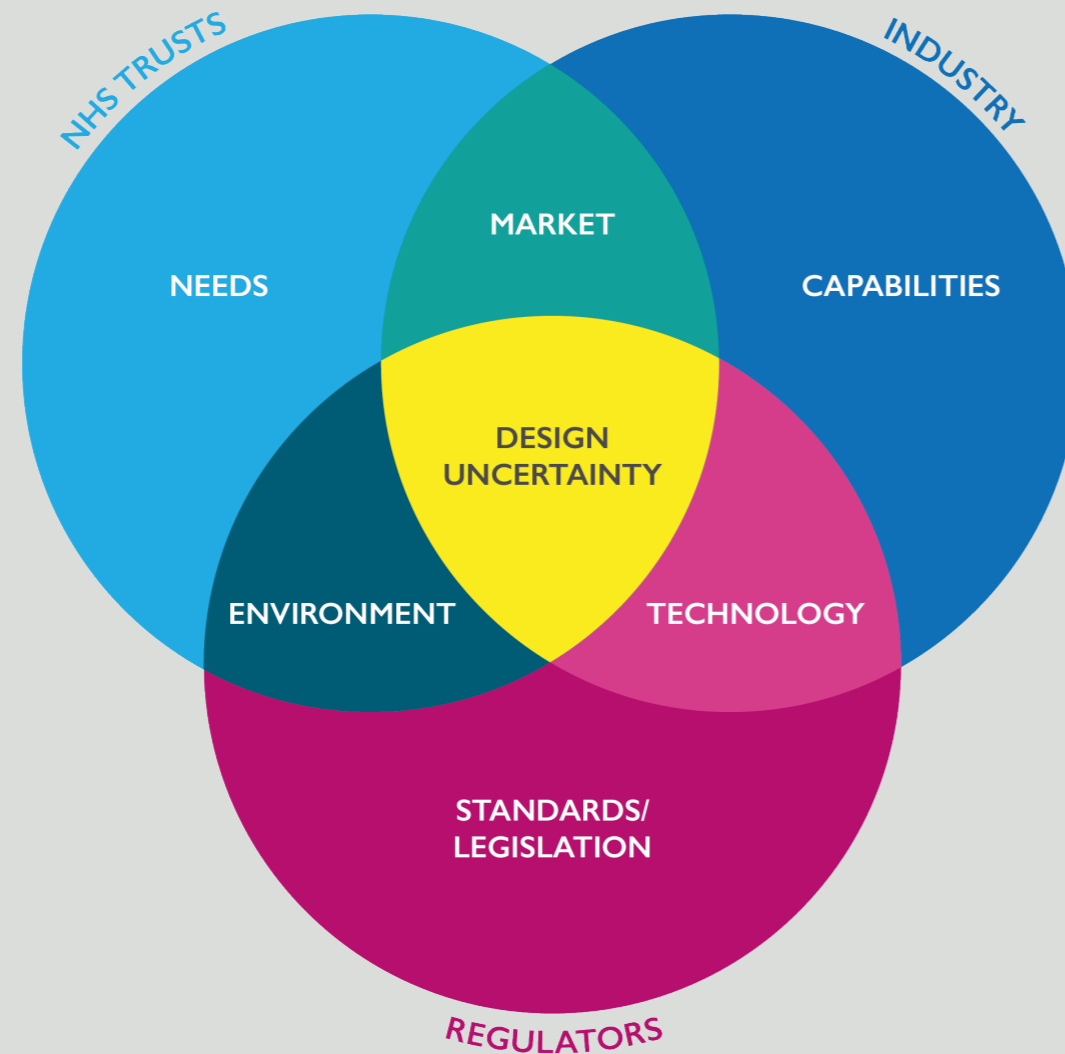
*“It’s crucial that the government’s approach [to platforms] builds in flexibility and facilitates the creativity of designers. The platform must be responsive enough to allow innovation where it can improve outcomes”*

Royal Institute of British Architects

The complexities and challenges associated with defining and implementing a platform-based approach are not to be underestimated. Platform strategies require careful consideration of factors such as:

- » variety in user needs
- » the speed of change in requirements and standards,
- » the demand pipeline,
- » the market capability and appetite, as well as
- » organisational and stakeholder dynamics.

To achieve this ambition within a healthcare sector, described by some as byzantine, will require focus, investment and discipline.



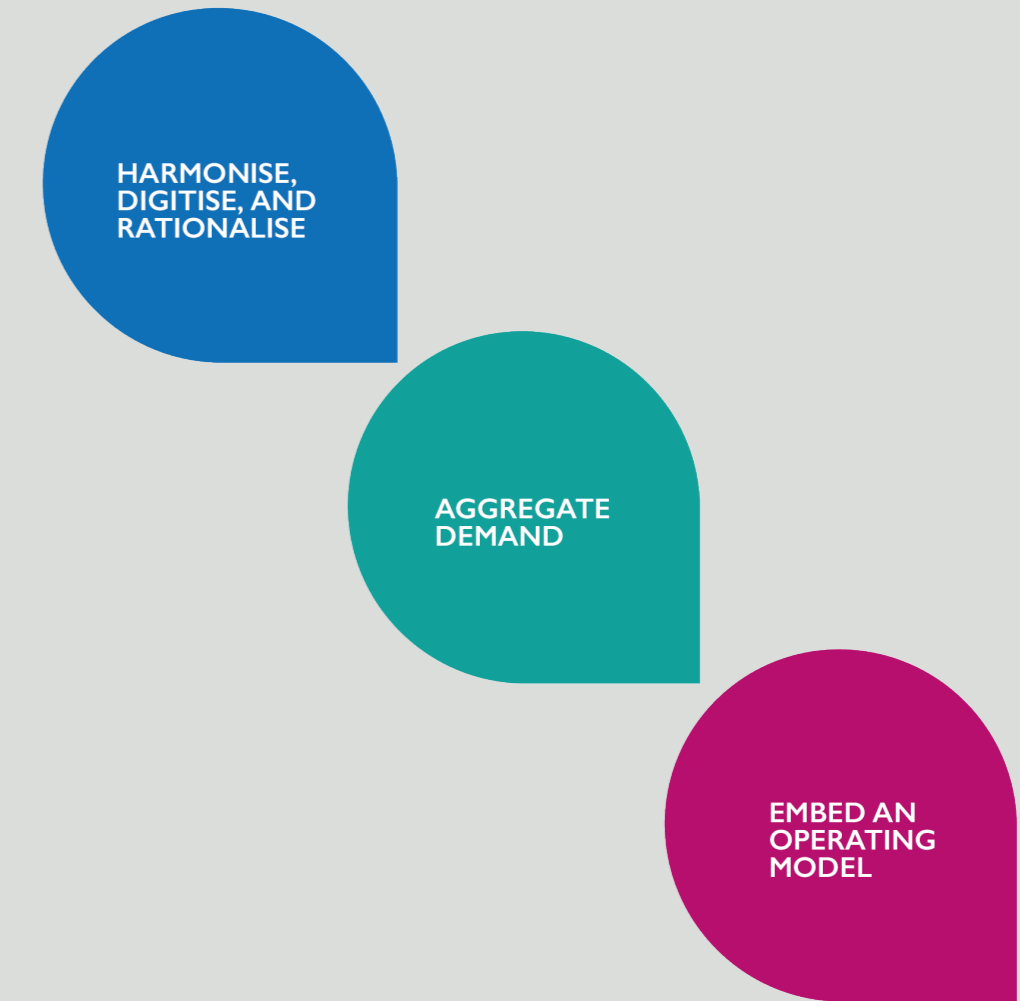
*Adapted from Nadadur et al, 2012 'Strategic Product Design for Multiple Global Markets*

The TIP Roadmap recognises the scale of this challenge and the transformation required, not only in developing technical solutions but in process, skills and culture.

The creation of an eco-system that enables a platform-based approach will need collaboration between both government and industry across a range of areas, including collective efforts to:

- » **Harmonise, digitalise and rationalise requirements** – via updated, digitised and deployed technical guidance such as Health Building Notes (HBNs) and Health Technical Memoranda (HTMs) that support standardisation, where appropriate
- » **Aggregate demand** – underpinned by a reformed system of capital allocation that provides the market with clarity and confidence in the future pipeline
- » **Embed an operating model** – that maintains central co-ordination, focus and knowledge curation, whilst enabling local innovation.

The New Hospitals Programme, as the largest capital investment in hospitals in a generation, is a unique opportunity for the Department to apply these principles to realise transformational change. Equally, the Health Infrastructure Plan is not just about building new hospitals: **potential exists to apply these principles to other parts of the healthcare estate.**



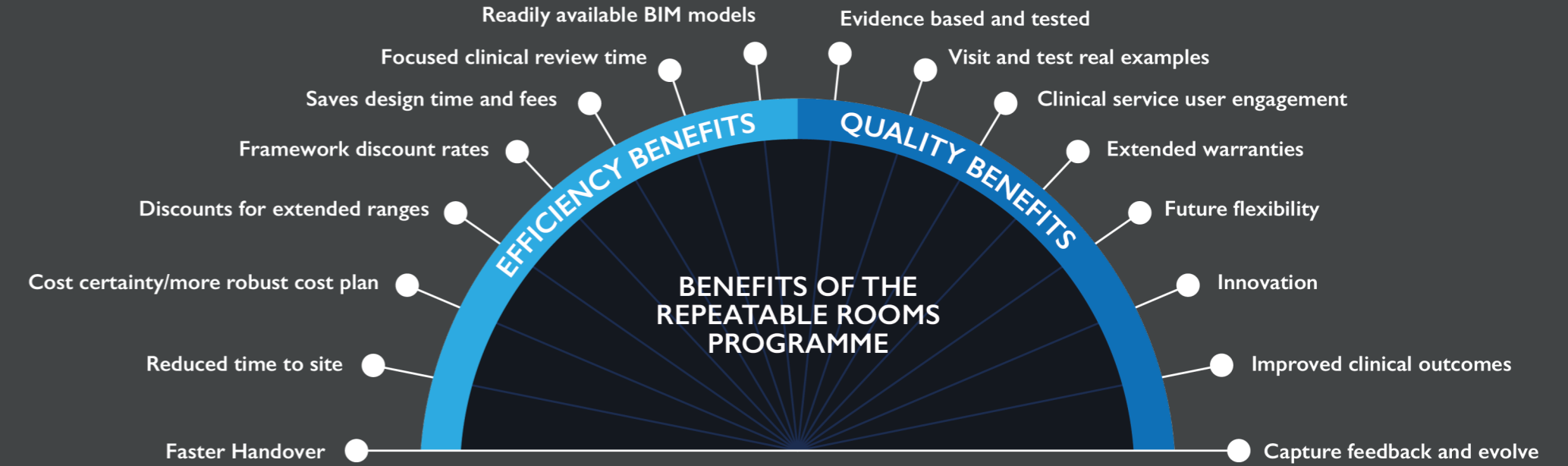
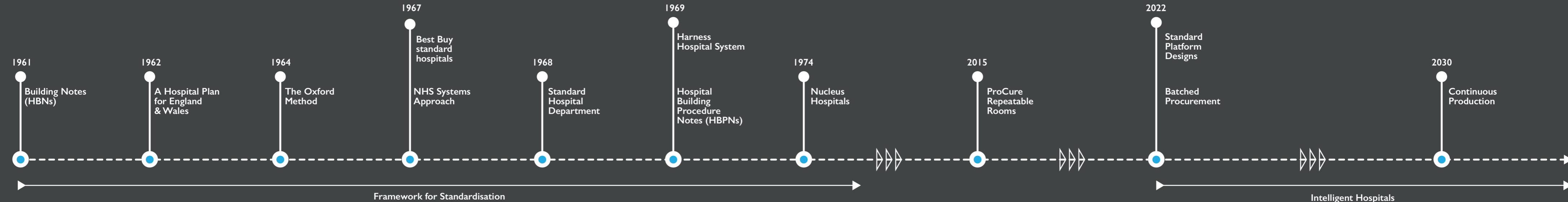


# PLATFORMS IN HEALTHCARE

The healthcare sector has a strong history of developing and applying platform principles, balancing the ambitions of realising efficiencies through commonality, whilst catering for individual needs and priorities. The Health Building Notes (HBNs), whilst cognisant of local practice, were created to challenge a largely decentralised basis upon which design had hitherto proceeded.

In a similar vein, the Hospital Plan for England and Wales published 60 years ago, promised “a systematic and progressive approach intended to promote economies of scale and medical efficiency”, underpinned by “a presumption in favour of design standardisation”. This catalysed the development of the “Harness Hospital” system several years later, intended to establish “a standard kit of parts from which it would be possible to build an endless range of hospital [designs]”.

This heritage has carried forward into modern-day healthcare design – the Repeatable Room initiative and standard component library developed under the ProCure framework for example, has provided significant value to the Department and NHS, delivering capital cost savings, improved quality of delivery and operational efficiencies. Collaborative research such as UCL’s “Challenging space frontiers in Hospitals” or Patricia Tzortzopoulos et al “Automated compliance checking in healthcare building design” illustrate the continuing investment and R&D focused towards developing innovation, manufacturing-based solutions in healthcare design and construction.



# SUPPORTING THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

As part of the long-term health infrastructure plan, NHSE/ alongside the Department of Health and Social Care have embraced platform principles to deliver better, faster, greener. The New Hospitals Programme, for example, is being driven by a centralised programmatic approach, with focus and commitment towards rationalisation and standardisation of processes, deployment of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), and commonality of components and commodities.

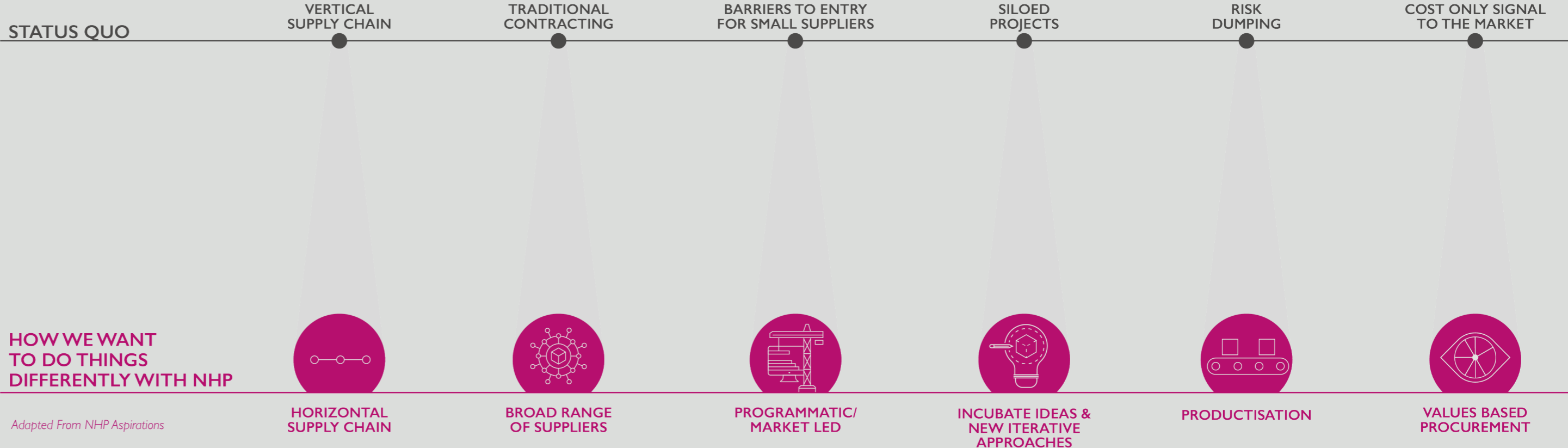
*“Adopting a common programmatic approach, with greater standardisation and repeatable design, will deliver efficiencies, maximise quality and reduce end-to-end delivery timescales.”*

New Hospitals Programme

The refresh, development and digitisation of Technical standards and guidance is intended to support this ambition whilst facilitating adapt to lessons learned and continual improvement.

Whilst others gravitate towards the standardisation of technical areas, such as components and process, we have instead chosen to explore the commonality of relationships, the market dynamics and eco-system that may facilitate and challenge this approach in equal measure.

Within this review, we have mapped/identified not only the work profile but also identify the key actors from a Trust and supply side, to identify relationships that may either carry forward or require adaptation.



**PART 3**

**THE TRUSTS**



# THE NHS TRUSTS



										Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Barts Health NHS Trust	Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Bolton NHS Foundation Trust	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	East Cheshire NHS Trust	East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust	East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	Isle of Wight NHS Trust	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust	Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	Medway NHS Foundation Trust		
Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	North Bristol NHS Trust	North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust		
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust	Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust	Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust	The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust		
The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, NHS Foundation Trust	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust	University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust	University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust	University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust	University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust		
Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust	Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	Whittington Health NHS Trust	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	Wye Valley NHS Trust	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	York & Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust		
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust	Devon Partnership NHS Trust	Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust	East London NHS Foundation Trust	Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust	Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust	Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	North East London NHS Foundation Trust	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust		
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	West London NHS Trust	Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Foundation Trust	Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust		
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust	The Christie NHS Foundation Trust	The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust	The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust	Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust	Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust	Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust	Hounslow & Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust	Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust		
Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust	Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust	Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust	Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust	Solent NHS Trust	Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust	Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust	Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust	Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust		

# CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROFILE

With the NHS estate recognised as one of the key enablers to change in the health system, the profile of capital investment has a critical link to the NHS' ability to operate efficiently, manage demand and meet healthcare needs. This point has been brought into sharp focus during the pandemic, with Trusts with an outdated estate finding it more difficult to reconfigure sites to accommodate social distancing and infection, prevention and control.

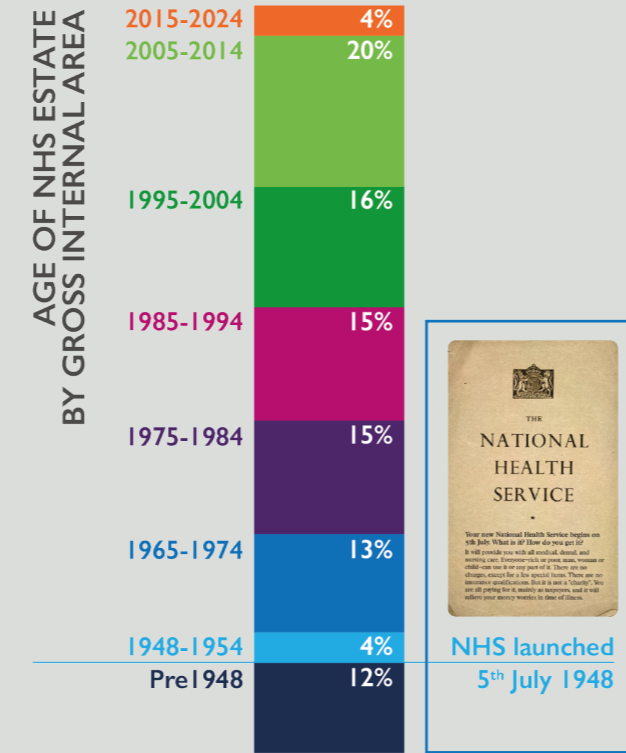
The past decade has seen a decline in capital spending by the Department in real terms, whilst the scale of backlog maintenance has more than doubled in the same period (now reported at more than £9bn with 50% identified as significant or high risk). The Naylor Review, the 2020 National Audit Office report and other research has repetitively flagged the challenge of delivering the NHS Long Term Plan and maintaining high-quality patient care with an ageing estate, within budgetary constraints.

Notwithstanding, during the period between 2015-2020, an average of £2.0bn per annum was invested by Trusts in both new buildings and refurbishment (excluding backlog maintenance). The scale of this investment is expected to grow in the future.

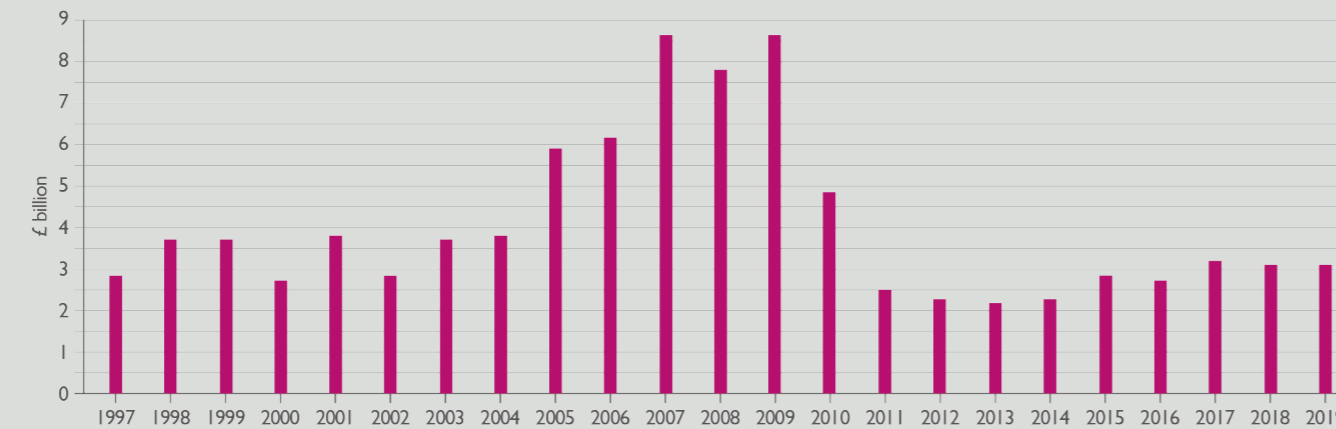
In 2019, the Department released its healthcare infrastructure plan (HIP); a long-term, rolling five-year programme of investment in health infrastructure, with increases to budgets for capital investment. At the epicentre of this, is the new hospital programme (NHP) with a commitment to more than 40 hospital building projects between 2020-2030.

Whilst there is debate as to whether the HIP goes far enough, the point remains that when aggregated, the NHS holds a significant capital investment profile\* – large enough to warrant consideration towards a platform-based approach.

\*The Department of Health is one of 5 departments that collectively represent circa two-thirds of publicly funded capital spending



Source: ERIC Data.



Expenditure on healthcare gross fixed capital formation (Infrastructure) in real terms, 1997-2019, UK  
Source: Office for National Statistics - UK Health Accounts. Notes: Figures are presented in real terms, adjusted for inflation using the GDP deflator.

# THE SHAPE OF THE NHS TRUSTS

The organisational shape of the NHS regularly evolves.

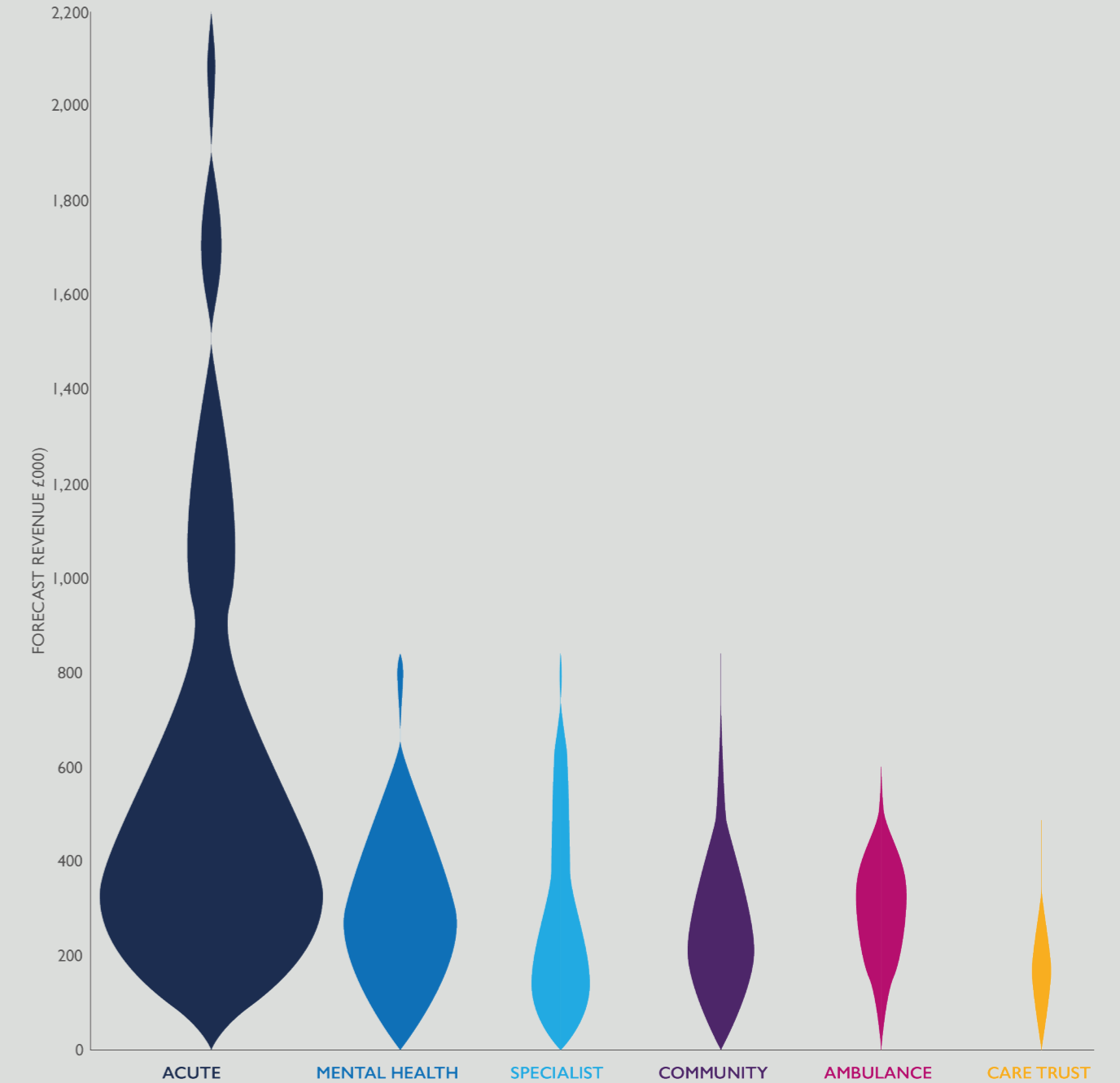
The Hospital Plan of 1962 recast a patchwork of 2,000 services into around 400 hospitals, serving populations of between 100,000 and 150,000. By 2015 the number of acute foundation Trusts and NHS Trusts had dropped to nearer 150, and their average population had risen to 350,000.

In total there are now 212 NHS Trusts (including those with foundation status), covering a variety of service provisions.

As a trend of mergers has continued through the past decade, so too has the increased range of scale, complexity and service provision. The size of Guy's and St Thomas', as a super-Trust (holding an annual turnover of more than £2 billion) is now almost 35 times bigger than its smallest peer, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. Equally, whilst 16 Trusts act as specialist providers, several organisations have expanded to provide integrated care with acute, mental health and community provision under a single umbrella.

This is further complicated by a multi-tier funding system, created through the use of separate rules around local capital spending limits for NHS Foundations Trusts (FTs - a status held by 68% of all Trusts), NHS Trusts and Trusts in financial distress.

Such diversity, spread across 212 provider Trusts, is a significant consideration in defining opportunities for commonality and the focus of a platform approach. So too is the profile of the capital investment .....



Source: NHS Digital Patient Level Information and Costing System (PLICS) Data Collections, Integrated Trust Specific Summary Report 2020/21



# DISAGGREGATED DEMAND

Reviewing the investment profile at the macro level highlights the potential scale that could be leveraged, however, it does not convey the distribution and disaggregation of expenditure across the Trusts.

This visual illustrates the proportionate scale of capital expenditure invested (excluding backlog maintenance) since 2010, highlighting the complexity of the demand side ecosystem.

- 1 Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
- 2 Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
- 3 Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 4 Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- 5 Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
- 6 Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust
- 7 Barts Health NHS Trust
- 8 Barts Health NHS Trust
- 9 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 10 Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 11 Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- 12 Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 13 Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust
- 14 Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 15 Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 16 Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust
- 17 Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 18 Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 19 Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- 20 Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
- 21 Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 22 Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust
- 23 Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- 24 Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 25 Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 26 Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 27 Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 28 Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 29 County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- 30 Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust
- 31 Croydon Health Services NHS Trust
- 32 Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- 33 Darlington and Grayesham NHS Trust
- 34 Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust
- 35 Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 36 Devon Partnership NHS Trust
- 37 Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 38 Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 39 Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
- 40 East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
- 41 East Cheshire NHS Trust
- 42 East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust
- 43 East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust
- 44 East London NHS Foundation Trust
- 45 East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- 46 East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- 47 East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust
- 48 East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
- 49 Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
- 50 Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
- 51 Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
- 52 Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
- 53 George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
- 54 Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

- 55 Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust
- 56 Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 57 Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- 58 Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
- 59 Harrogate Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 60 Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
- 61 Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
- 62 Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust
- 63 Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
- 64 Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 65 Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- 66 Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- 67 Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust
- 68 Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- 69 Isle of Wight NHS Trust
- 70 James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 71 Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust
- 72 Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust
- 73 Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 74 King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 75 Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

- 76 Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
- 77 Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 78 Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 79 Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- 80 Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- 81 Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust
- 82 Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- 83 Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust
- 84 Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 85 Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 86 Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 87 Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
- 88 London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- 89 London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust
- 90 Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
- 91 Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
- 92 Medway NHS Foundation Trust
- 93 Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust
- 94 Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
- 95 Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 96 Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

- 97 Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 98 Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 99 Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
- 100 Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust
- 101 North Bristol NHS Trust
- 102 North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
- 103 North East London NHS Foundation Trust
- 104 North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
- 105 North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
- 106 North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- 107 North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- 108 North West Anglia Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 109 Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
- 110 Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 111 Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust
- 112 Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
- 113 Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- 114 Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 115 Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
- 116 Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- 117 Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

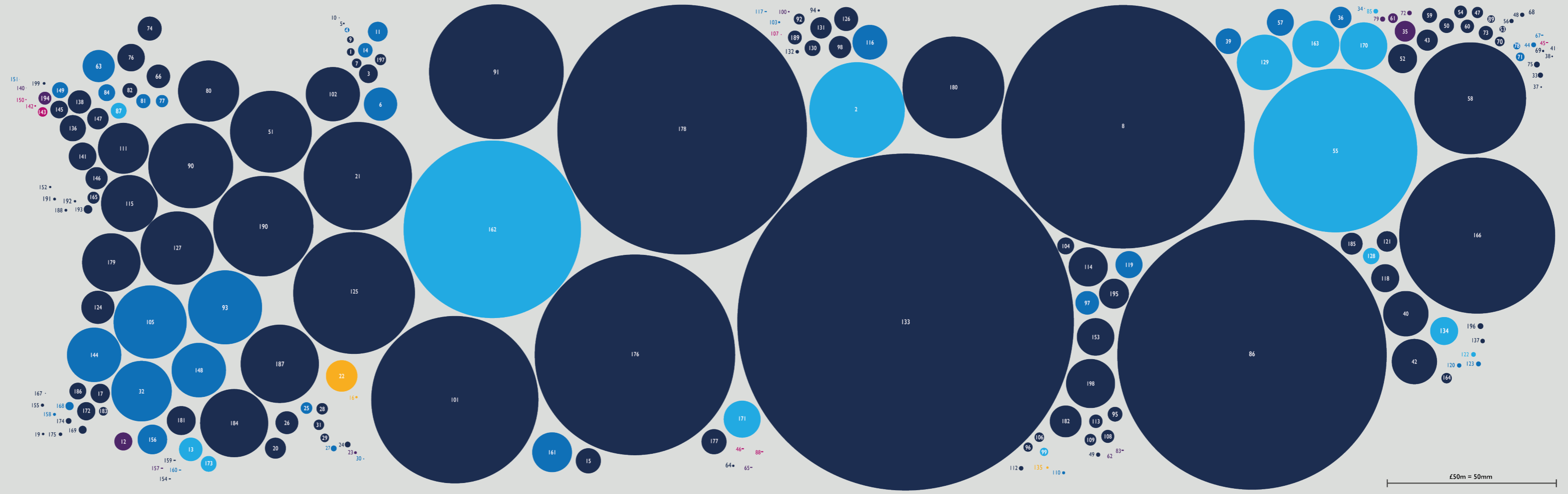
- 118 Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 119 Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
- 120 Penrhine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- 121 Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust
- 122 Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 123 Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- 124 Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
- 125 Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
- 126 Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
- 127 Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
- 128 Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
- 129 Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 130 Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust
- 131 Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
- 132 Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
- 133 Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
- 134 Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust
- 135 Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust
- 136 Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 137 Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 138 Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

- 139 Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust
- 140 Solent NHS Trust
- 141 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- 142 South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- 143 South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- 144 South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
- 145 South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 146 South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
- 147 South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust
- 148 South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust
- 149 South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 150 South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- 151 Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
- 152 Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust
- 153 St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 154 St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- 155 Stockport NHS Foundation Trust
- 156 Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 157 Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust
- 158 Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- 159 Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

- 160 Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust
- 161 Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- 162 The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
- 163 The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust
- 164 The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
- 165 The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 166 The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 167 The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust
- 168 The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHSFT
- 169 The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- 170 The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 171 The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 172 The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- 173 The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust
- 174 Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- 175 United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- 176 University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 177 University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust
- 178 University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- 179 University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
- 180 University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

- 181 University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
- 182 University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
- 183 University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust
- 184 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust
- 185 University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
- 186 University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust
- 187 Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- 188 Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 189 West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- 190 West London NHS Trust
- 191 West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- 192 West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
- 193 Whittington Health NHS Trust
- 194 Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust
- 195 Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
- 196 Wrexham, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
- 197 Wyre Valley NHS Trust
- 198 York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 199 Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Note: 13 Trusts did not commission work over £1m in value



- ACUTE
- MENTAL HEALTH
- SPECIALIST
- COMMUNITY
- AMBULANCE
- CARE TRUST

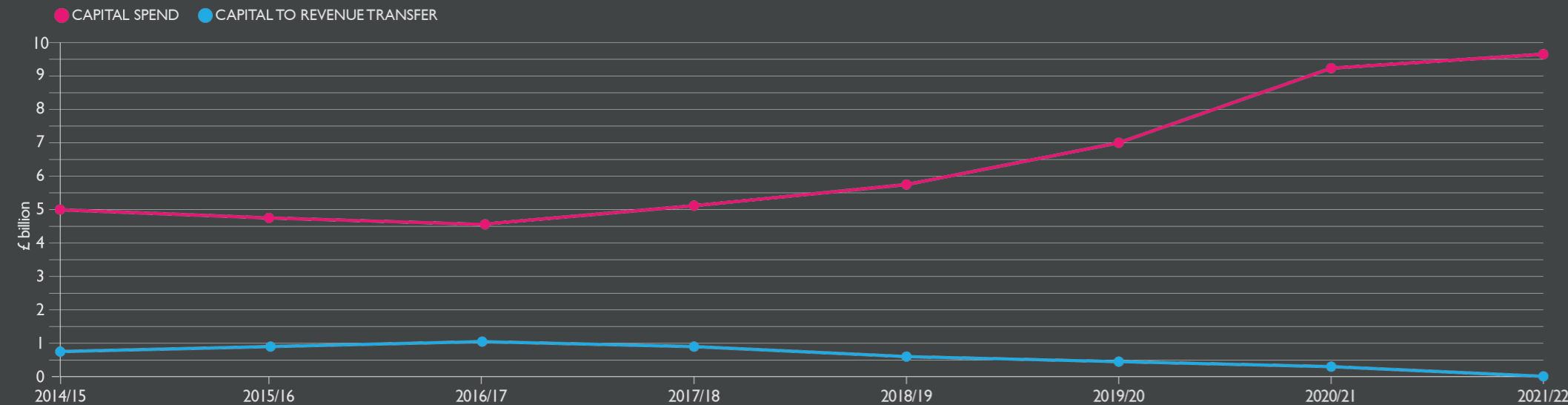
# CONSISTENTLY INCONSISTENT

The disaggregation of demand is further complicated by a disjointed and opaque capital allocation system, managed within annual limits.

This position was compounded midway through the last decade, with repeated transfers from the capital budget (intended to finance long-term investments) to the revenue budget in addressing, immediate spending pressures.

**A total of £4.3bn of funding was transferred from capital to revenue spending between 2014/15 and 2018/19.**  
National Audit Office

**“Pipelines should look ahead three to five years to be truly effective”**  
Construction Playbook



Source: The Kings Fund – with data sourced from Department of Health and Social Care annual report and annual accounts between 2014/15 – 2018/19

The lack of budget certainty beyond a short-term, annual horizon has frustrated both Trusts and the supply market in equal measure in their attempts to plan and deliver long-term improvements.

A lack of predictability is a key blocker when investing in a platform-based approach. The Construction Playbook reaffirms the importance of pipeline visibility to stimulate market engagement, wider participation from a diverse supply base and investment in technology and capability.

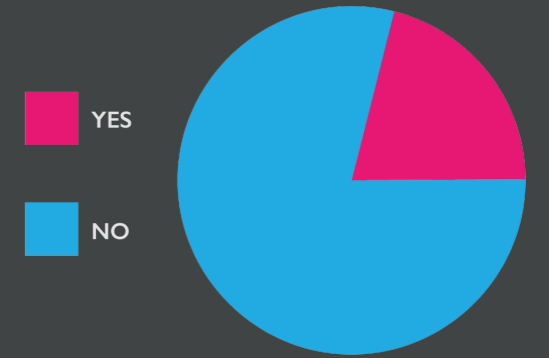
The Health Infrastructure Plan acknowledges that the approach to capital funding allocation has become outdated, overly bureaucratic and not conducive to the effective delivery of projects.

The government has therefore committed to enabling improved certainty by establishing a multi-year horizon, whilst maintaining an ability to provide capital investment to unforeseen issues.

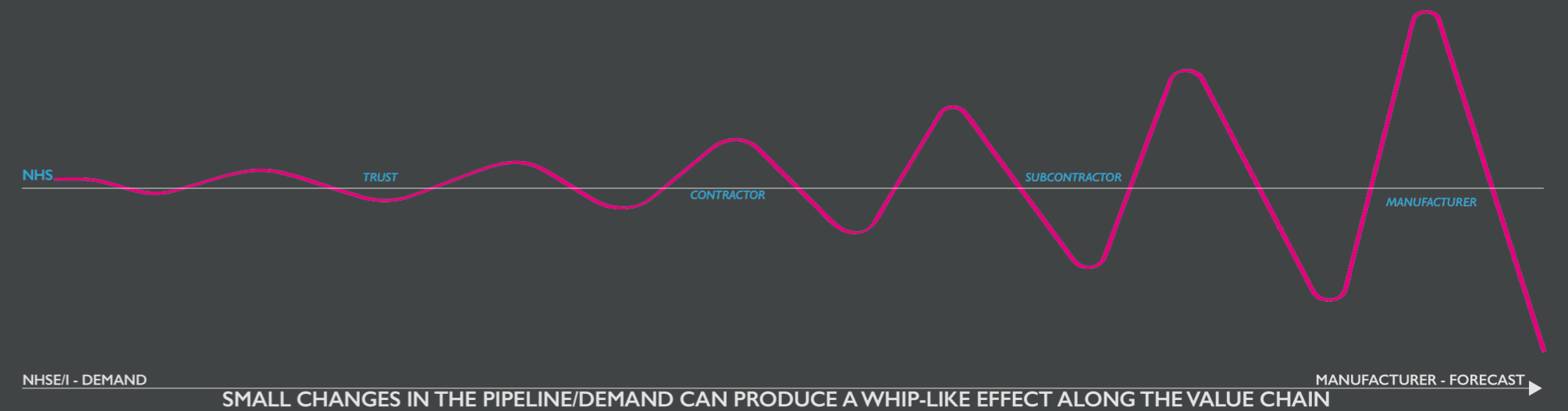
In addition, the Government has also committed to “build capability and capacity in strategic estates planning and management across the system... enabling local NHS organisations to take a more strategic approach”.

Despite this national commitment, the number of Trusts lacking a Board approved Estates Development Strategy, has increased by a factor of 160% since 2014. Such gaps in planning at a local level represent a blocker to the aggregation of pipeline at a macro level.

## DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



Proportion of Trusts with Estates Development Strategy (2020/21 ERIC data)



**PART 4**

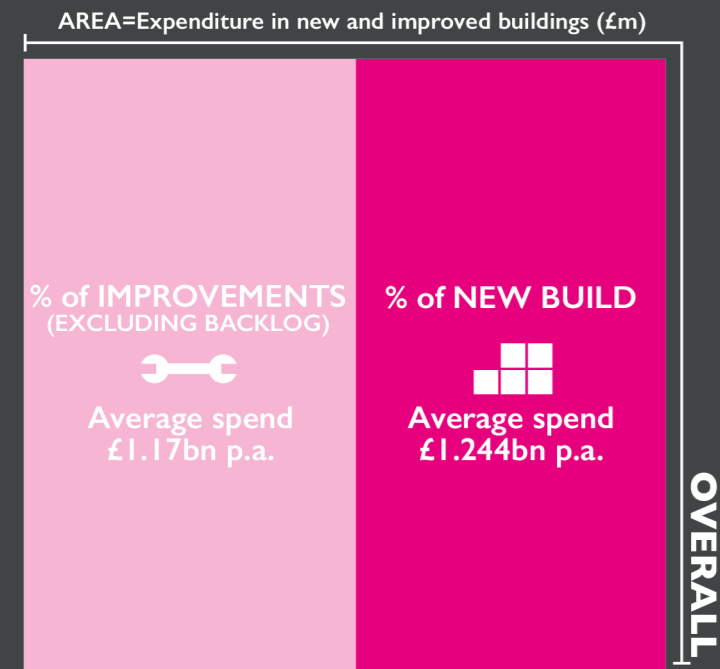
**HISTORICAL PIPELINE**



# WORK TYPE

On average, circa three-quarters of capital expenditure investment in new and improved buildings in the past decade was spent in the acute sector. At a macro level, this pattern closely correlates with the Trust revenue distribution.

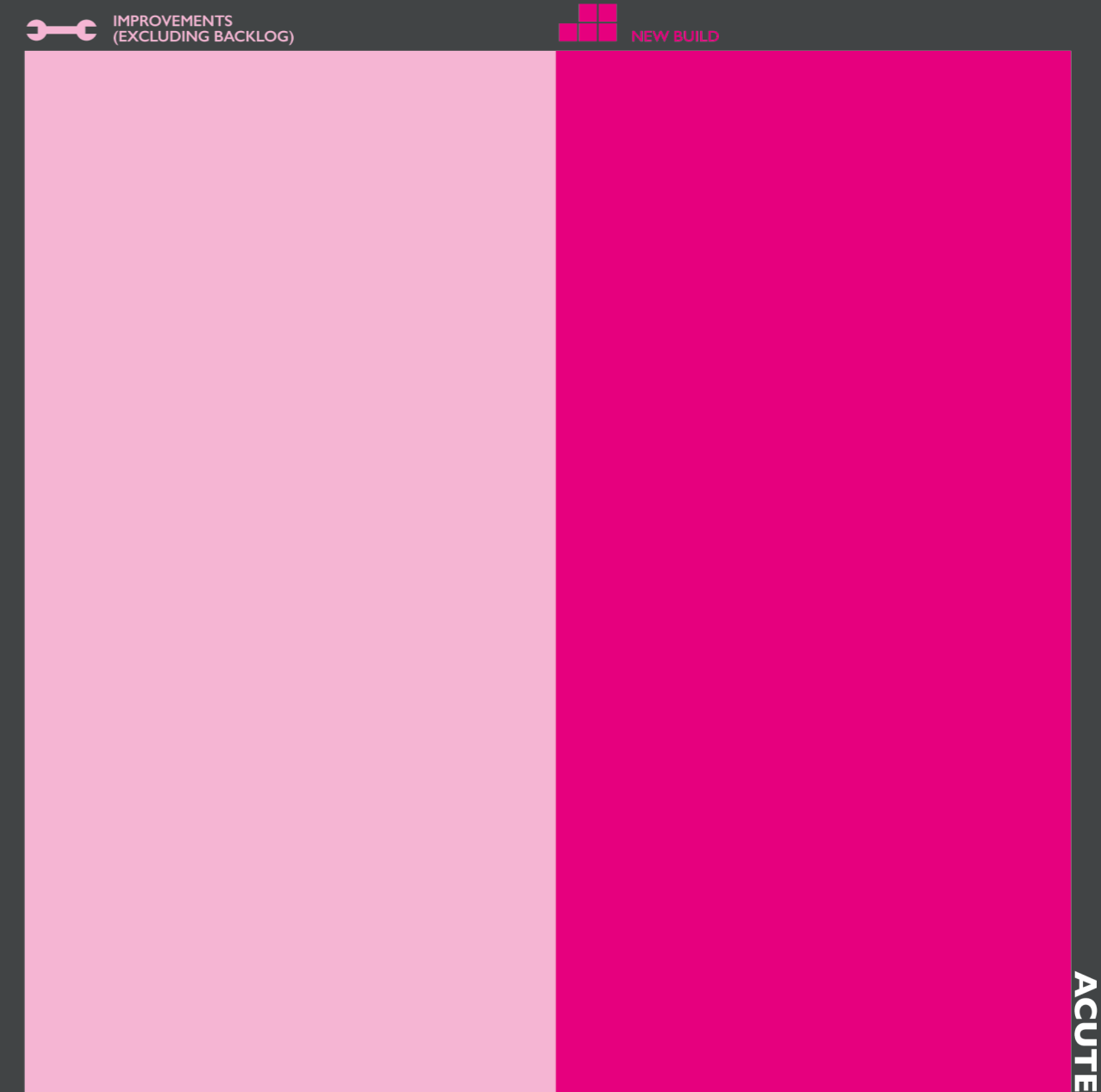
The split between new build and refurbishment was generally equal, albeit two outliers exist: specialist hospitals have typically involved a greater proportion of new build work, whilst almost 90% of work for community Trusts was improvements to existing facilities.



The split between new build and refurbishment (excluding backlog maintenance) is almost 50:50.

Average expenditure across ERIC data 2014-2020

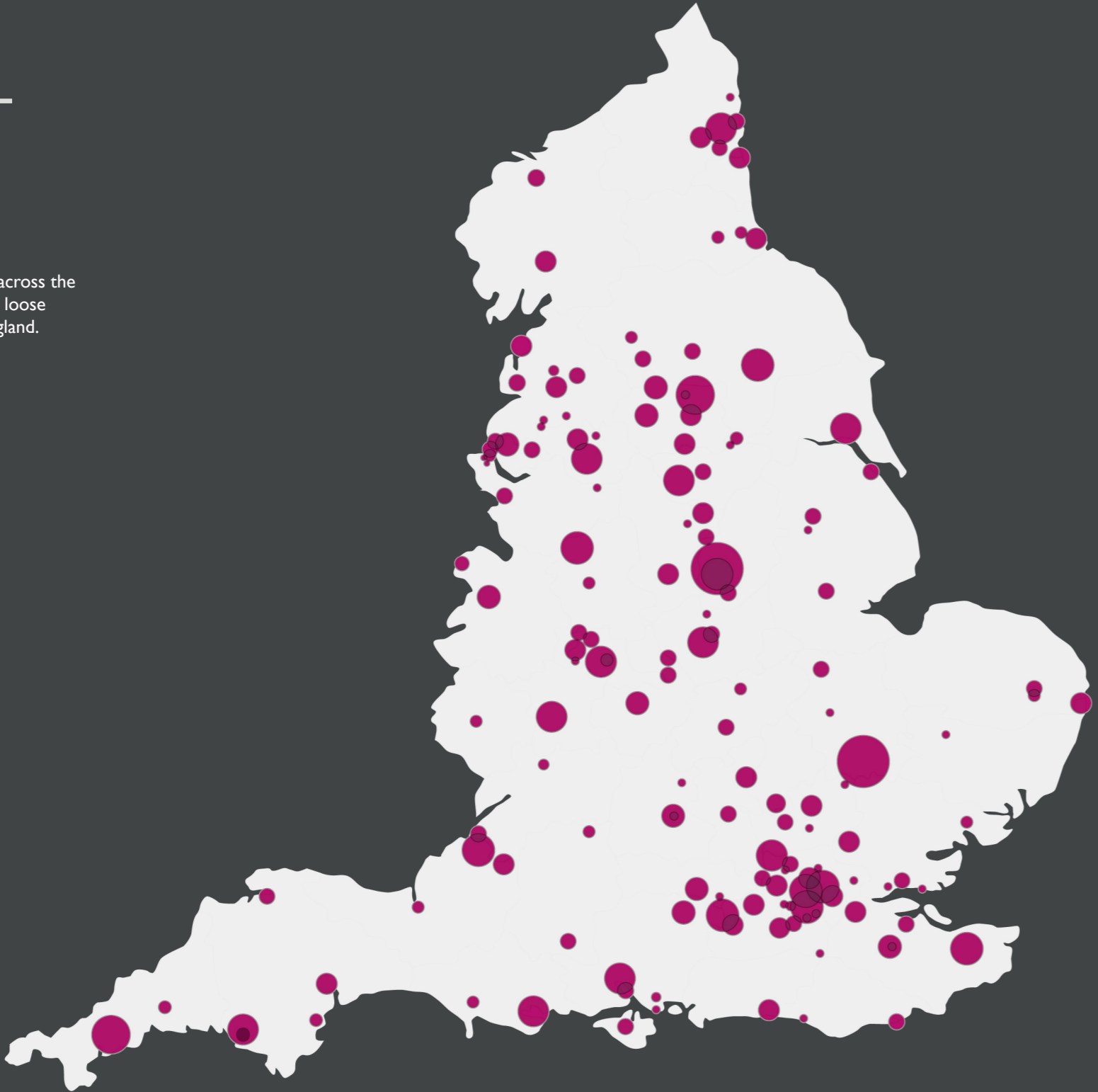
Circa 75% of NHS Trust capital expenditure is spent in the acute sector.



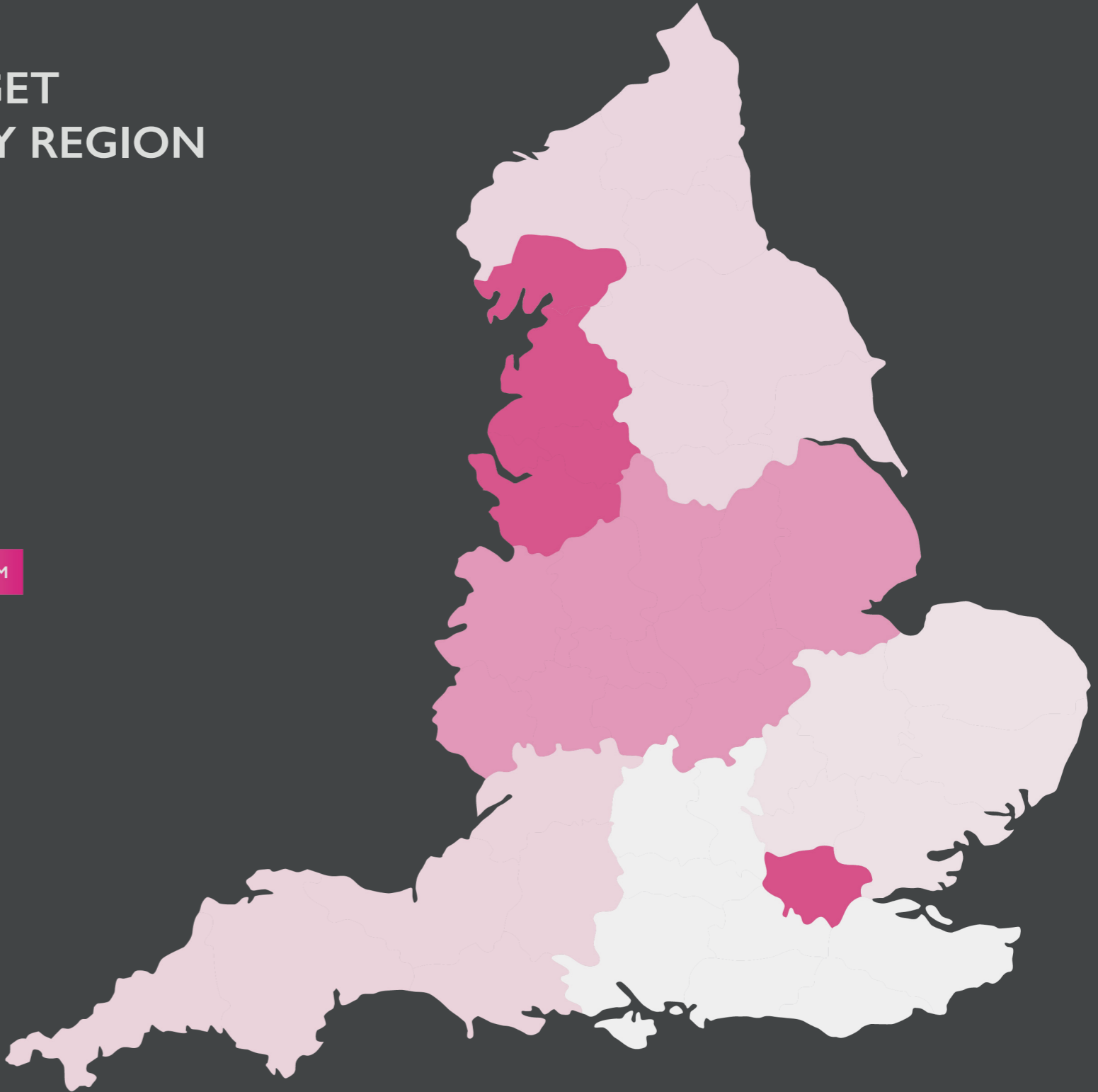
# GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Geographically, work activity was distributed across the country, with no defined pattern other than a loose correlation with the population density of England.

NUMBER OF PROJECTS



# AVERAGE BUDGET PER PROJECT, BY REGION



# PROJECT SIZE

Over 80% of projects (by number) delivered between 2010 and 2020 were valued at less than £10m.

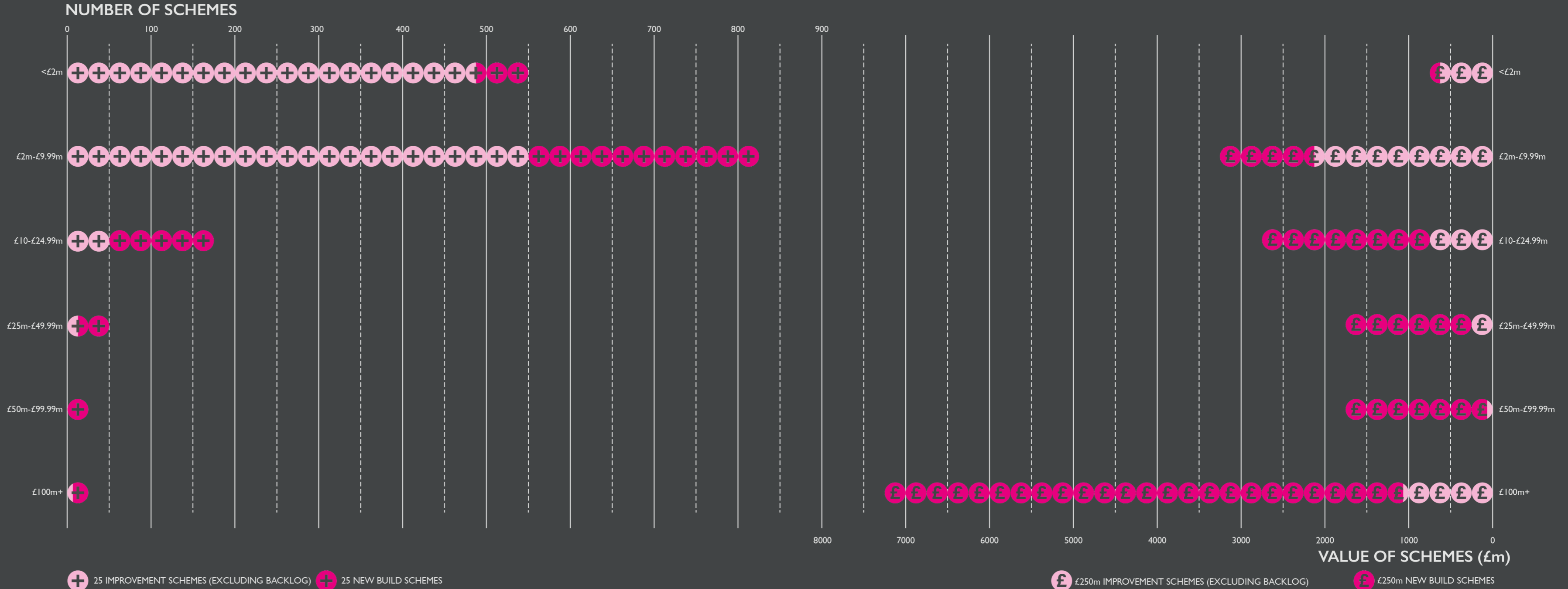
Stereotypically, improvement projects (extensions, refurb, etc) were at the lower value end of the scale, whilst new build projects were larger in value but far less frequent.

Some would say this is proof of the statement within the HIP the “NHS infrastructure is more than just large hospitals” and yet .....

..... whilst over 80% of projects were valued at less than £10m, they accounted for only circa 20% of expenditure. Instead, 80% of investment was spent on projects valued at greater than £10m.

The dynamic between frequency and value makes for interesting consideration when determining a platform and commonality strategy.

Should NHSE/I focus their energy on a smaller quantum of high-value projects, such as NHP, driving efficiencies through the scale of spending? Or instead, should energy be channelled towards engaging a broader circle of participants, leveraging the number of projects? To deliver upon the HIPs ambition to provide world-class facilities for the country, multiple strategies will be required.



# WHERE IS OUR PLATFORM FOCUSED?

Mapping the profile of work delivered over the past decade against axes of project value and healthcare category illustrates key market segments and activity, highlighting the need for a focused approach as part of a platform strategy. Plotting activity against these axis alone, also demonstrates the diversity of the sector; other factors such as typology or new build versus refurb only add to the complexity of this profile, reaffirming the need for clear market segmentation.

0  5+  
**NUMBER OF SCHEMES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TRUST**







**PART 5**

ARCHITECTS

# ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES

## NETWORK BETWEEN ARCHITECTS AND TRUSTS

To realise the intended benefits of a platform-based approach, the design strategies at an individual project level need to align to a programmatic vision.

As natural custodians of design, the role of the architect in embracing this philosophy and working within the parameters of a programmatic framework is pivotal. Close consultation will be critical to developing standards, guidance and solutions that sensitively balance standardisation and flexibility, in a manner that is embraced and owned by the architectural community.

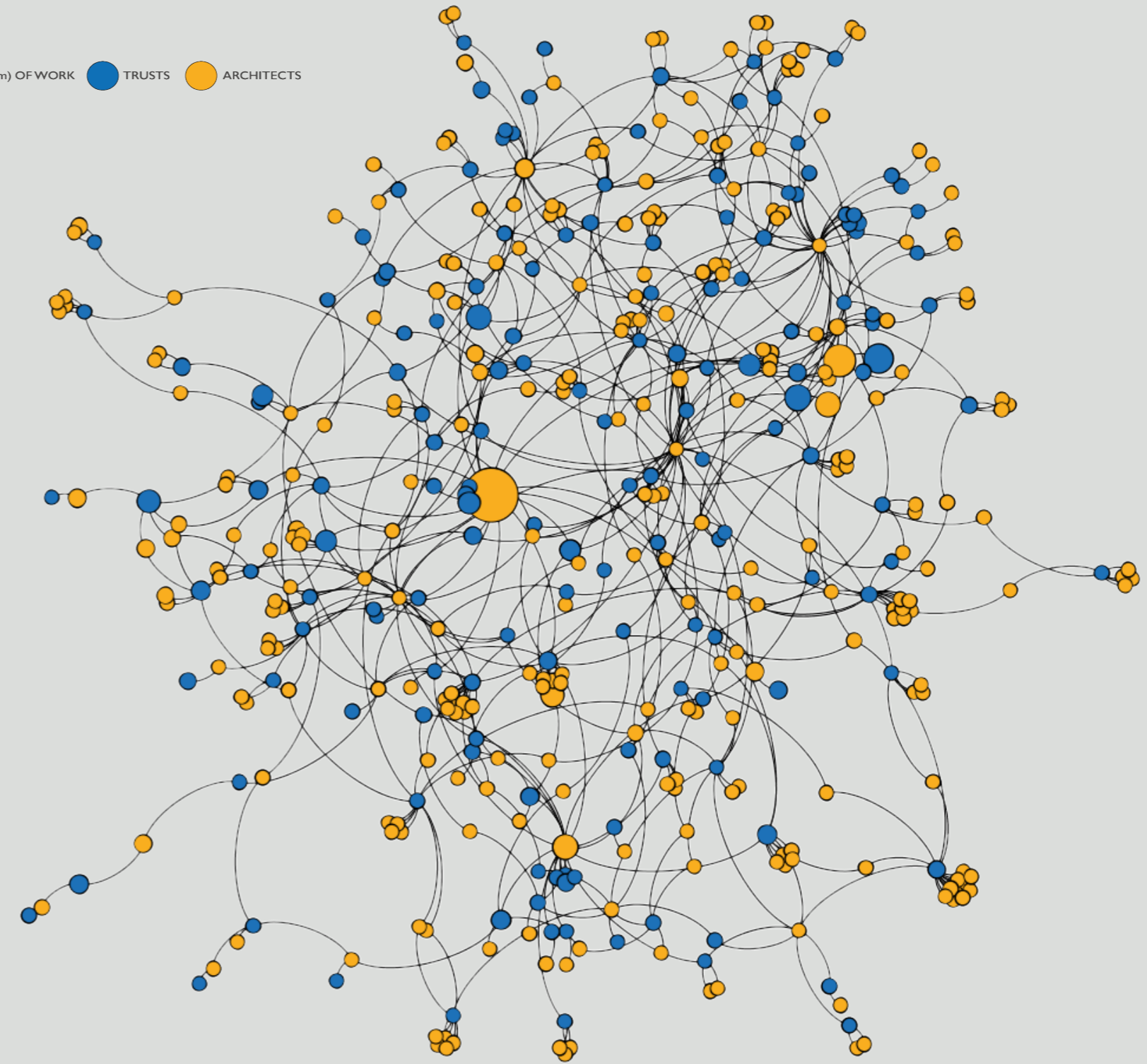
However, the network of architectural practices designing healthcare schemes is complex, compounded by varied engagement across individual Trusts.

The route map to achieve consensus across this network is not immediately obvious.

This network diagram illustrates links between the Trusts and architectural practices that have worked together between 2010 and 2020.

Its complexity is reflective of the market profile, demonstrating both the quantum of organisations and varied points of engagement.

SCALE = VALUE (£m) OF WORK ● TRUSTS ● ARCHITECTS

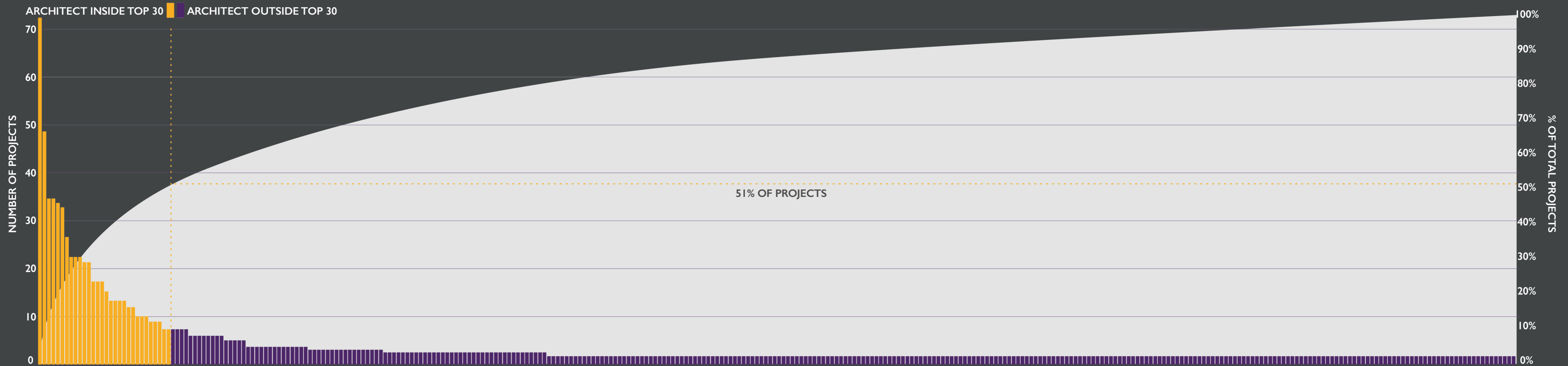


# THE LONG (BUT IMPORTANT) TAIL

**30 ARCHITECTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
51% OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN**

By plotting the number of healthcare projects delivered by individual architectural practices a pattern does begin to emerge. There is a strong cluster of organisations (circa 30 practices), with leading healthcare specialism, having delivered cumulatively over half the workload by number during the past decade. Over the same timescale, there is equally a long tail of organisations that have worked in the sector intermittently, delivering a small number of projects (e.g. less than 2 or 3) in varying scale, often as part of a broader portfolio that spans beyond healthcare.

Such breadth of practices reaffirms the key role of both RIBA and collegiate forums such as Architect for Health and IHEEM in developing consensus and facilitating knowledge exchange. It also reinforces the importance and value of technical standards in themselves – to provide clarity that facilitates consistency of delivery across such a diverse resource base.



# DELIVERING AT SCALE

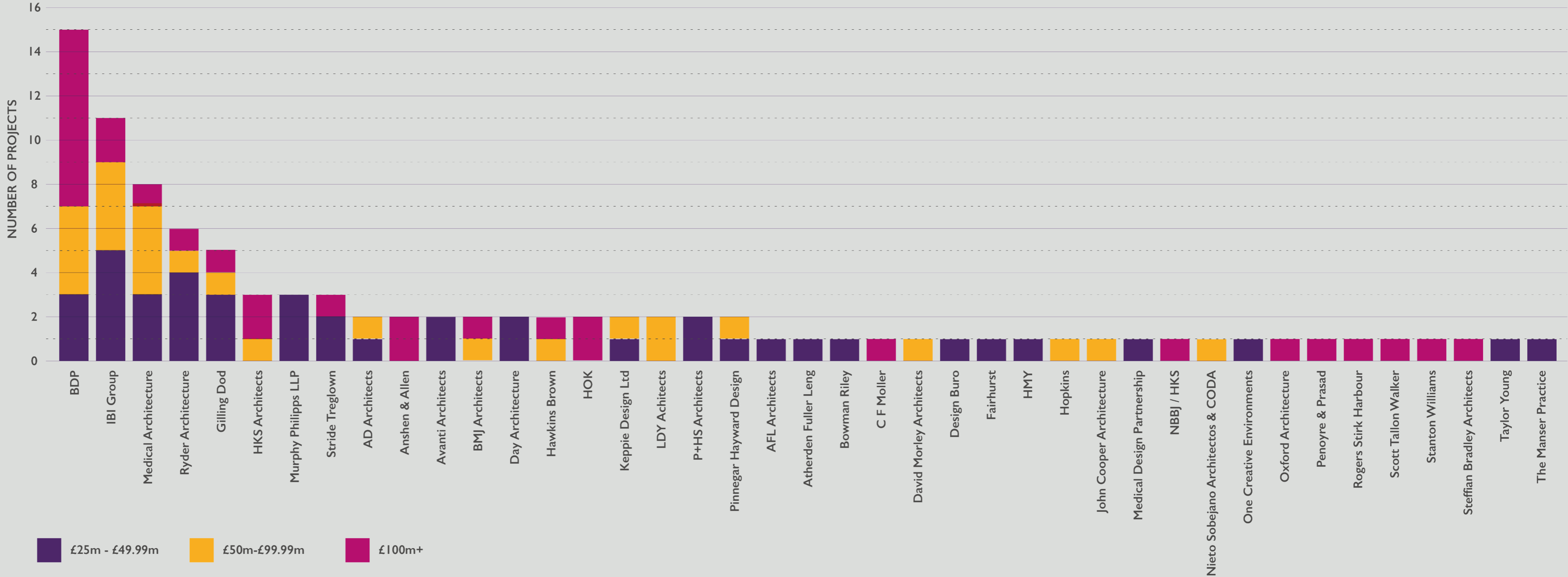
The length of the tail is even starker when reviewing projects with scale.

We identified 41 practices that designed healthcare projects, valued at more than £25m and completed in the past decade.

For 60% of these organisations, these projects were one-offs, with a cluster of only 8 practices that delivered 3 or more largescale (£25m+) schemes.

Whilst our analysis may be skewed by being limited to public healthcare schemes in England (excluding both private healthcare and other countries) it nonetheless illustrates a dual dynamic in the context of seeking to embed platform principles:

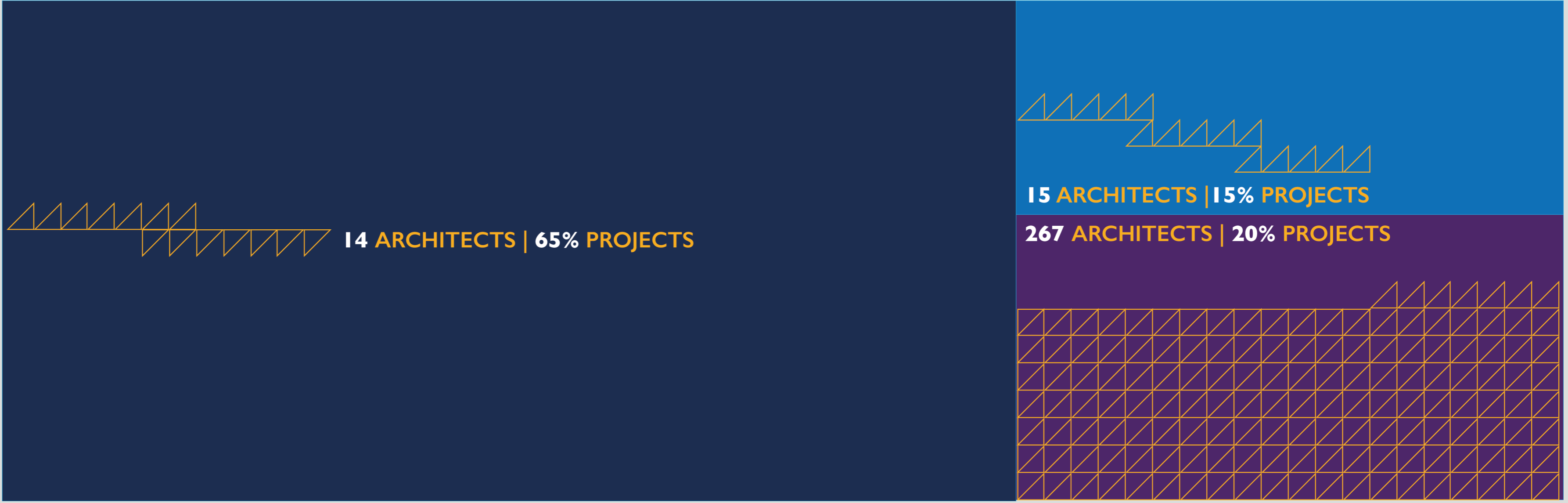
- i. It presents a smaller cluster of expertise in which focused communication could gain traction, quickly
- ii. But as a small cluster, it potentially represents a limitation of skills and capacity.



# THE MINORITY DELIVERING THE MAJORITY

The principle of a “minority delivering the majority” is brought into stark focus when analysing the profile of work delivered by expenditure (£).

Whilst 30 practices delivered circa 51% of projects by number, the same number of architects delivered schemes equating to almost 80% of the expenditure. In fact, 14 architects were responsible for almost 65% of the work delivered, by value.





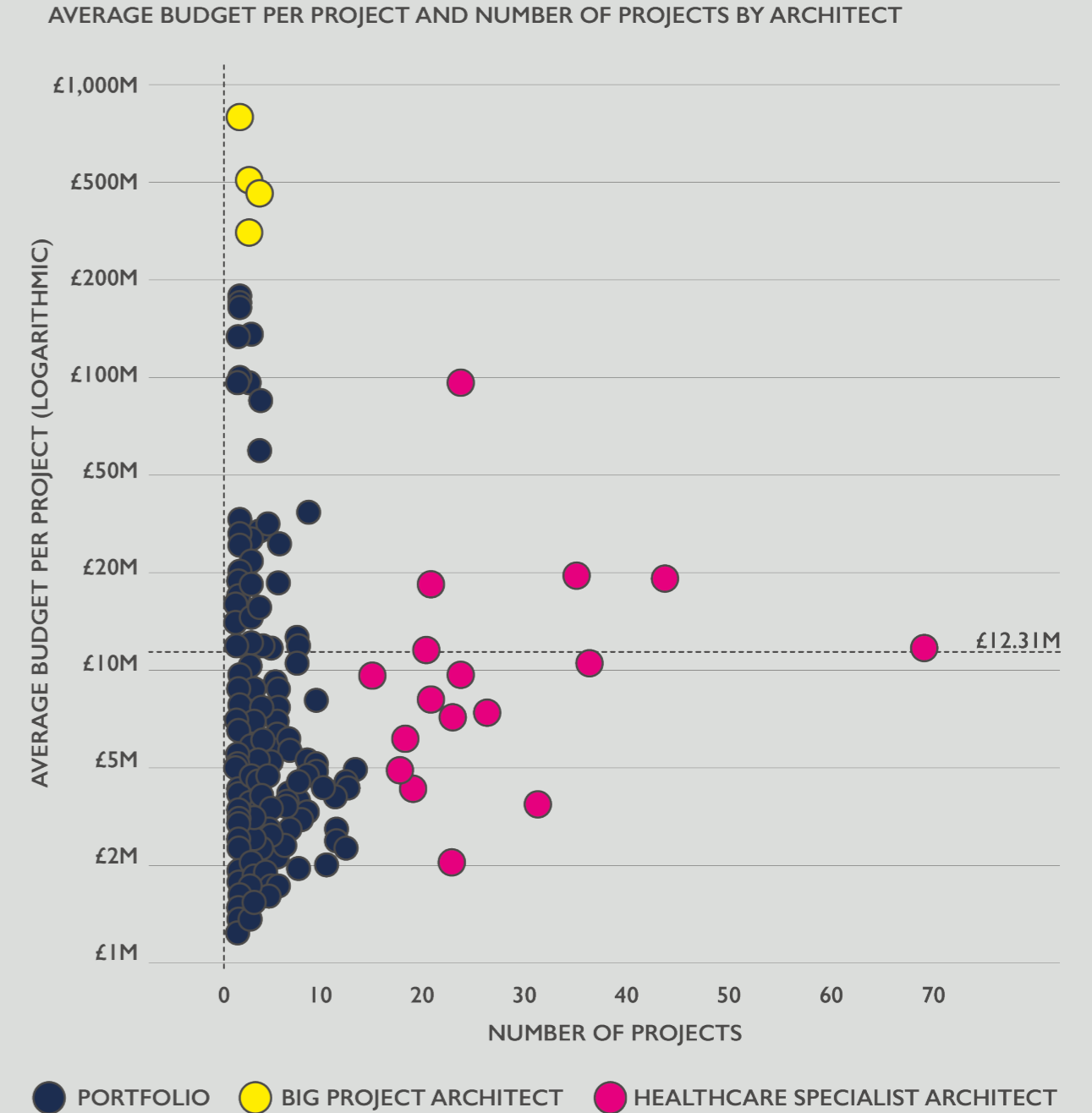
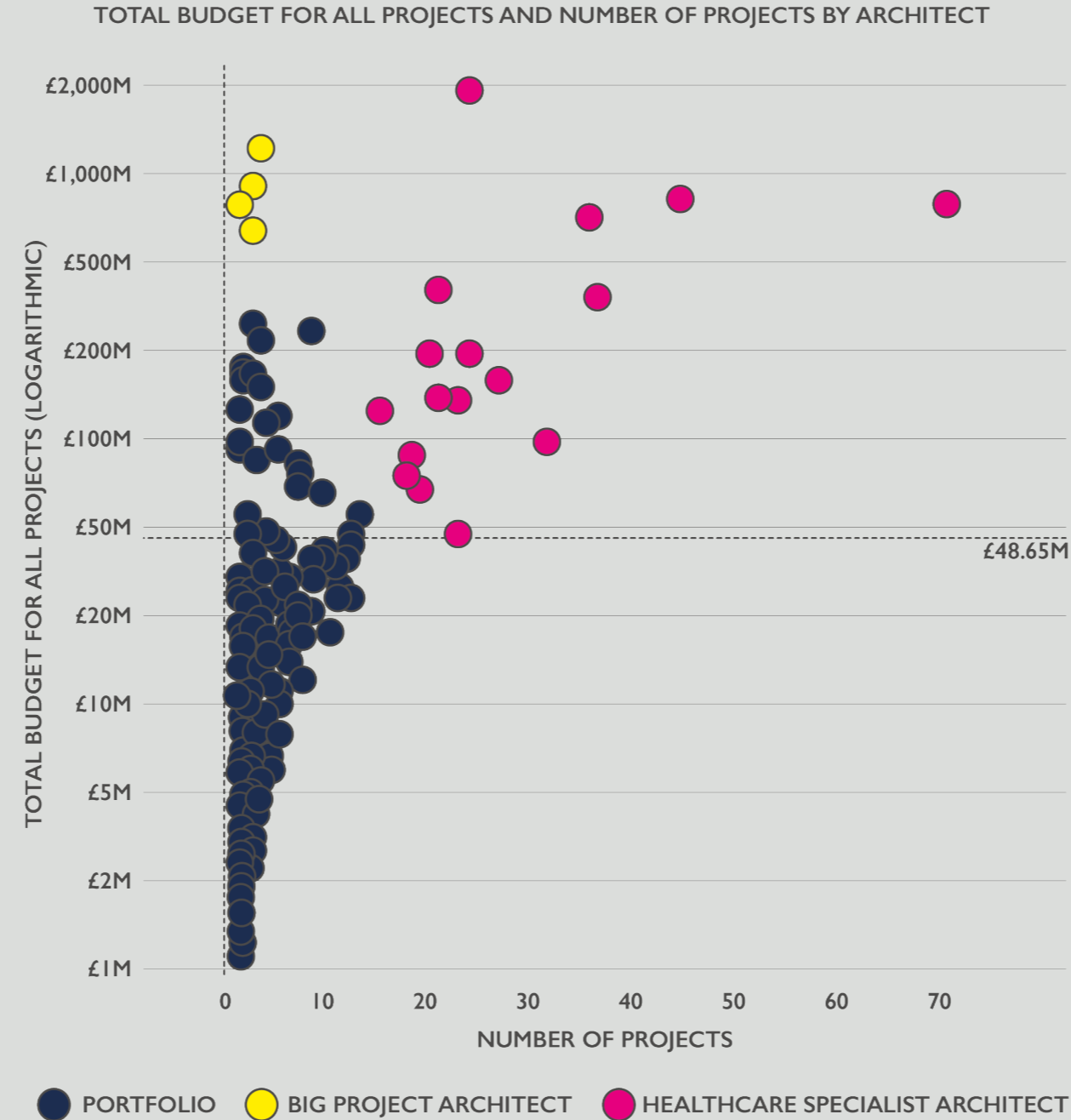
# SCHEMES DELIVERED PER ARCHITECT

Plotting the average project budget against the number of schemes delivered per architectural practice serves to reaffirm the clusters observed earlier, namely:

1. A **portfolio majority** - a large quantity of firms that deliver healthcare intermittently, mainly with smaller scale (certainly less than £10m), as part of a broader design portfolio. For this group, the existence of standardisation through HTMs, HBNs and initiatives such as repeatable rooms are critical to supporting consistency in output but also mitigating learning curves and reinvention.
2. A cluster of **big project architects** – that delivered a small number of schemes, but with large project values. On closer review, the majority of these practices typically deliver their healthcare detailed design with specialist support,
3. The **healthcare specialists** – a minority of less than 30 firms that consistently deliver healthcare projects. This minority is a more concentrated group than say the Trusts, offering on one hand the potential to embed platform principles swiftly, on the other, an illustration of the limitation on market skills & knowledge.

To place this limitation upon resource and skills in context, a pipeline of £15bn for new hospitals would, at a hypothetical 2.5% of contract value, equate to a programmatic architectural design fee of £375m. This is, with the notable exception of BDP, the equivalent turnover of all 30 specialist firms for a 3 year period – leaving no capacity for business as usual. RIBA have historically noted that “adoption of a [platform] approach will inevitably require all professionals across the built environment to develop the necessary skills more widely .... whilst skills do exist within some architectural practices, this is not necessarily widespread”.

The future demand profile may therefore present challenges in both capacity and capability.



# REGIONAL VS NATIONAL CAPABILITY

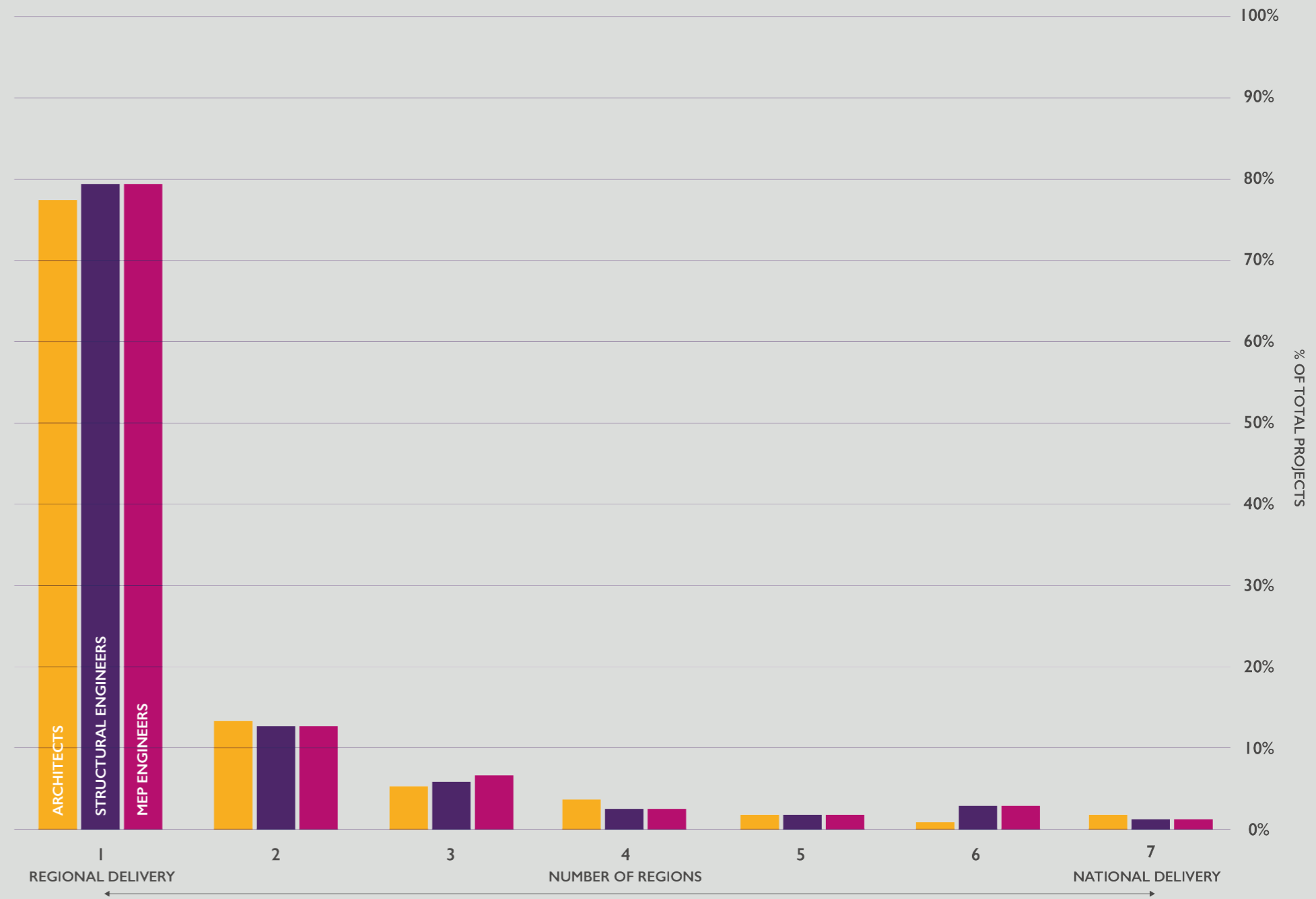
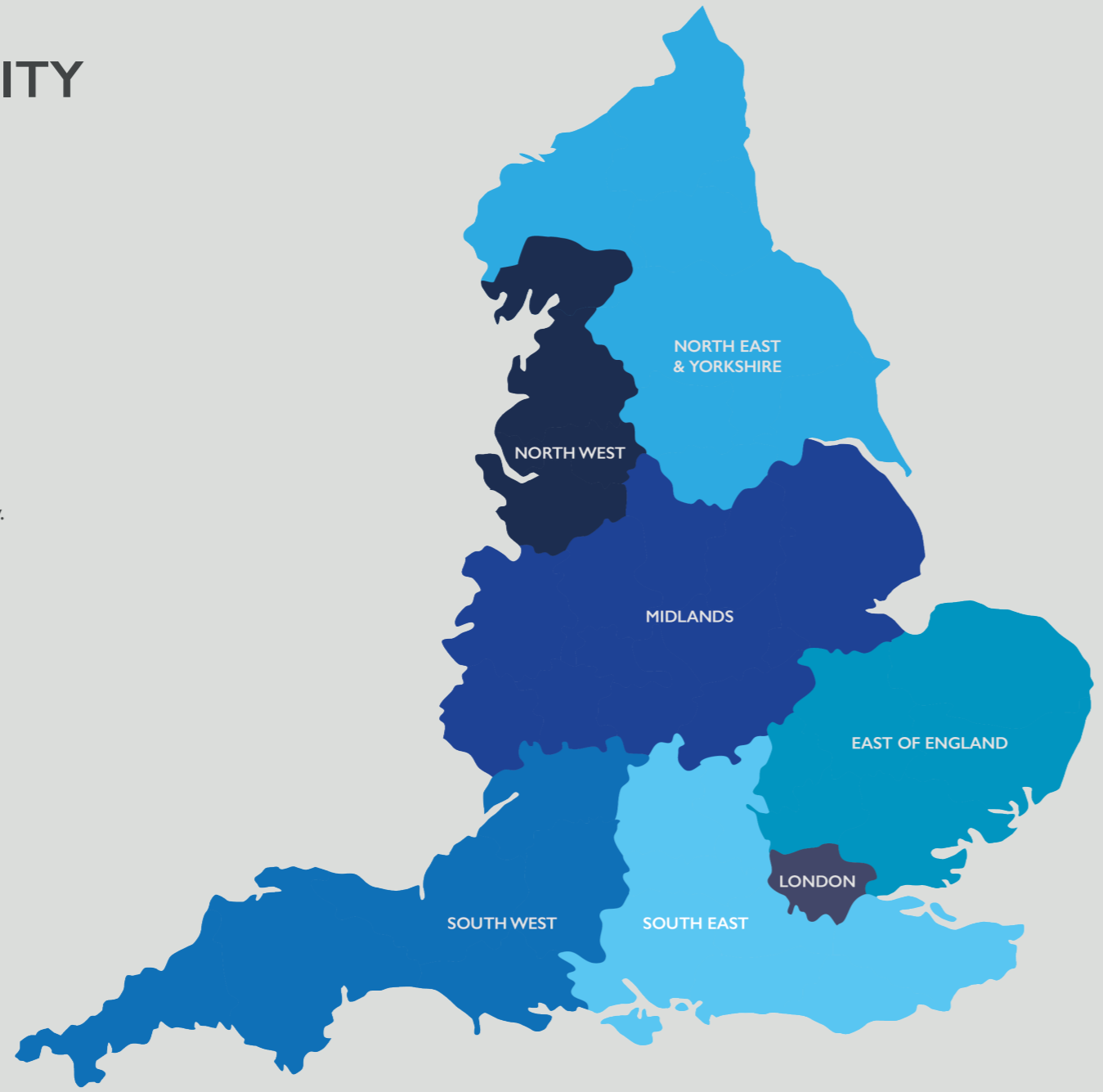
The profile of the architectural market, albeit summarised simplistically, is consistent when reviewed through a geographical lens

NHS England and Improvement are structured around regional management structure of 7 regions (illustrated below). Analysis of activity across these 7 regions highlights that almost 80% of architects work within the demise of a single region, with only 12 architects working across 4 or more regions of England.

This pattern is not exclusive to the architectural fraternity.

Both the structural engineers and MEP engineers, follow a similar mould, with less than 12 engineers for each discipline working across 4 or more regions.

The natural channels to percolate knowledge through the market are limited.



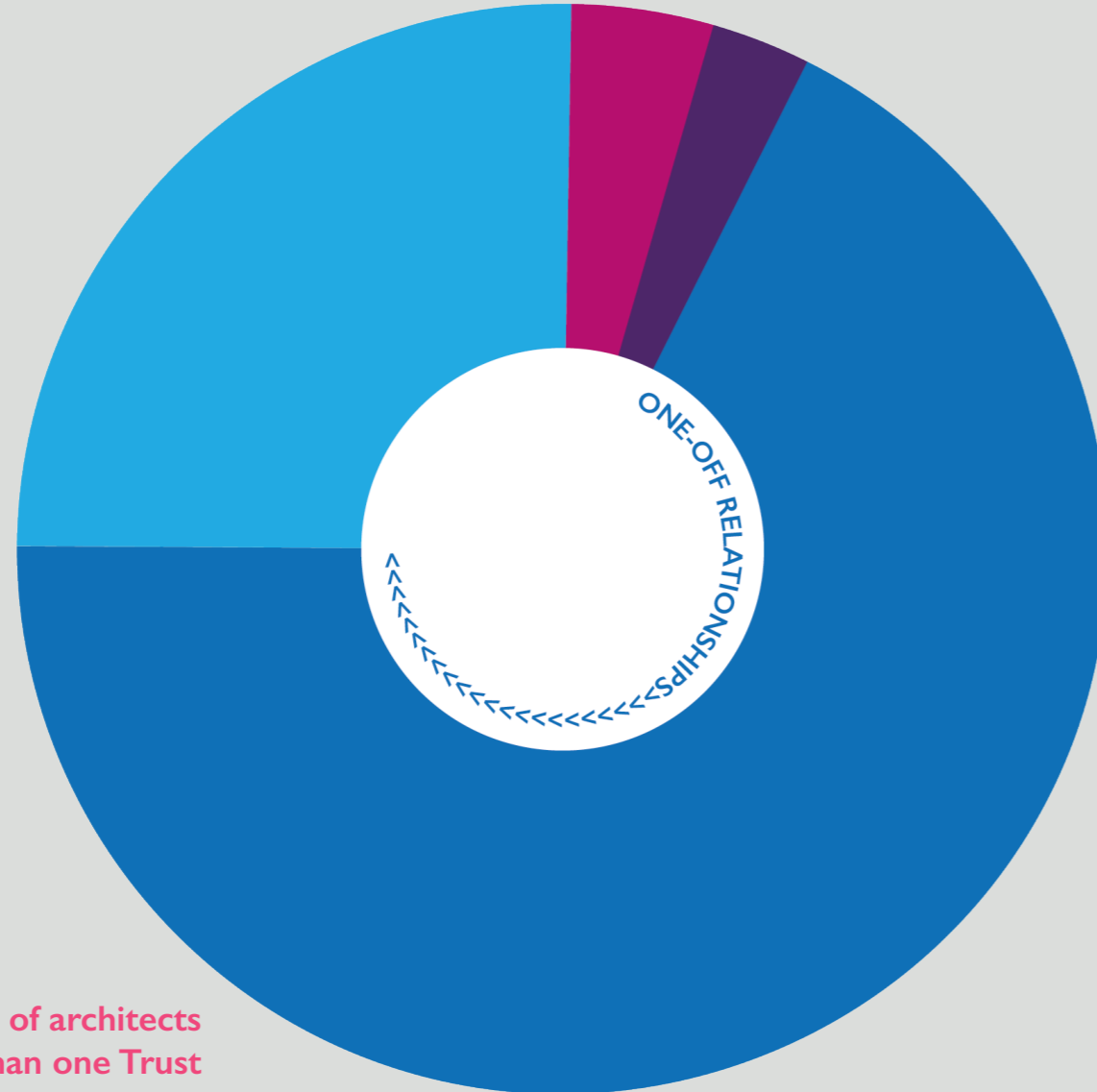
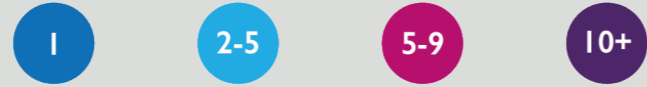
# STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

The market bias towards working at a local level, rather than nationally, links to the analysis we have conducted around commonality of relationships and repeat working.

We have identified that over two thirds of the market worked only with a single Trust.

Exclusivity of relationship on behalf of architectural practices did not however necessarily translate to repeat work. By number, the overriding proportion of schemes were delivered as one-off's, with only 15% of the market enjoying a sustained relationship with a Trust that extended beyond more than a couple of projects.

HOW MANY TRUSTS DID ARCHITECTS WORK FOR?

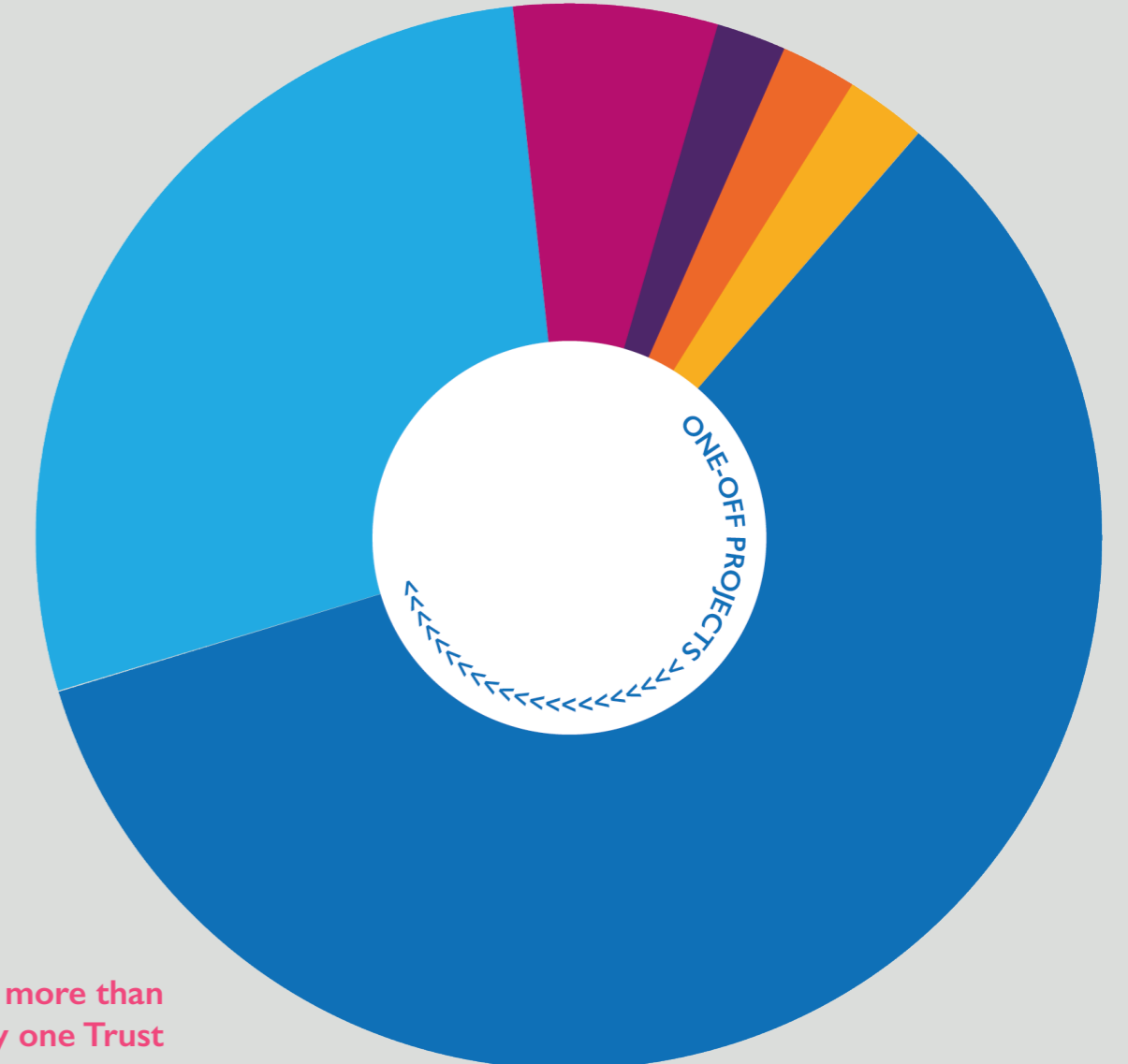
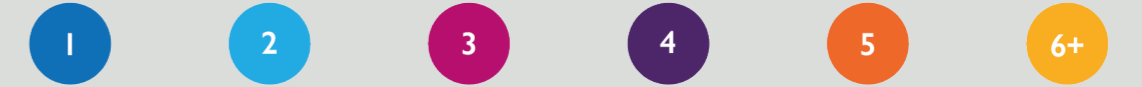


Less than a third of architects worked with more than one Trust

Whether this is pattern was driven by intermittent demand, procurement protocols, contractor-led selection or other contributing factors has not been analysed. Nonetheless it begs a number of questions regarding the scale of duplicated endeavour and the opportunity for waste reduction through the creation of common repeatable processes, relationships or solutions.

As the status quo, it represents a challenge to developing consistency through a relationship-based network.

ONCE ENGAGED, HOW MANY PROJECTS DID ARCHITECTS DELIVER FOR THE TRUSTS?



Only 15% of architects delivered more than two projects with any one Trust

**PART 6**

**ENGINEERS  
STRUCTURAL + MEP**

# STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

The structural design (particularly superstructure) has a significant influence upon other elements of the building not least in terms of repeatability, deflection, vibration characteristics, thermal performance, embodied carbon, tolerances, etc. It is both an opportunity itself to apply platform principles as well as core to enabling the same in other elements, components and spaces within a building.

Standardisation of structural grids, floor slabs and floor-to-floor heights are simple but fundamental examples of where platform principles can unlock potential benefits in both design, delivery and operation.

The structural engineers' understanding of a platform-based approach is therefore as important as the architects'.



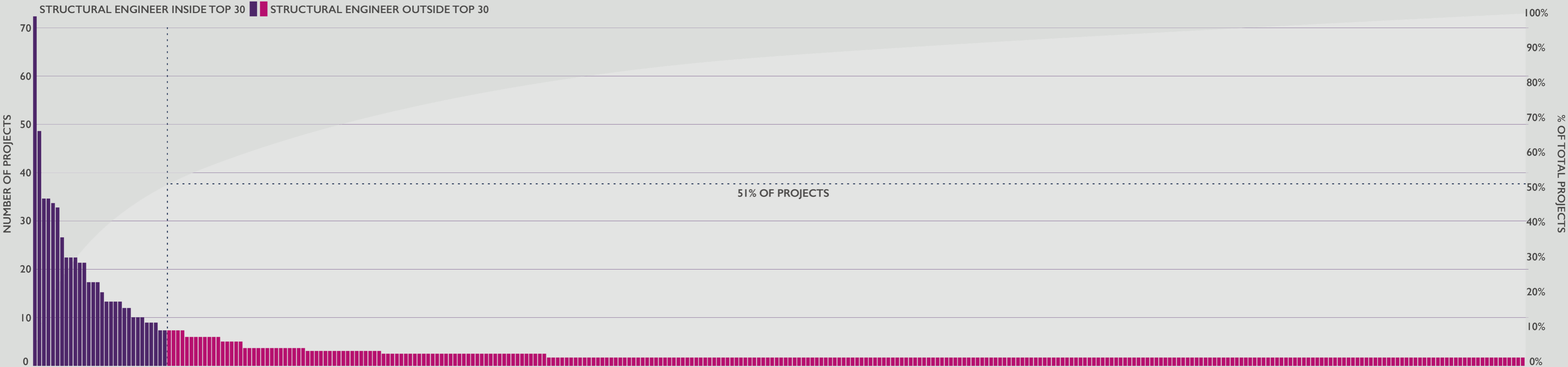
Adapted from an image courtesy of Bryden Wood: Delivery Platforms for Government Assets



# STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, A FAMILIAR TAIL

30 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 51% OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

In reviewing relationships and the distribution of historical work across the structural engineering discipline, we have identified a profile similar to the architects. A long tail exists, again with a minority of organisations (less than 30) mixed of large scale consultancies and specialist firms, delivering more frequently.

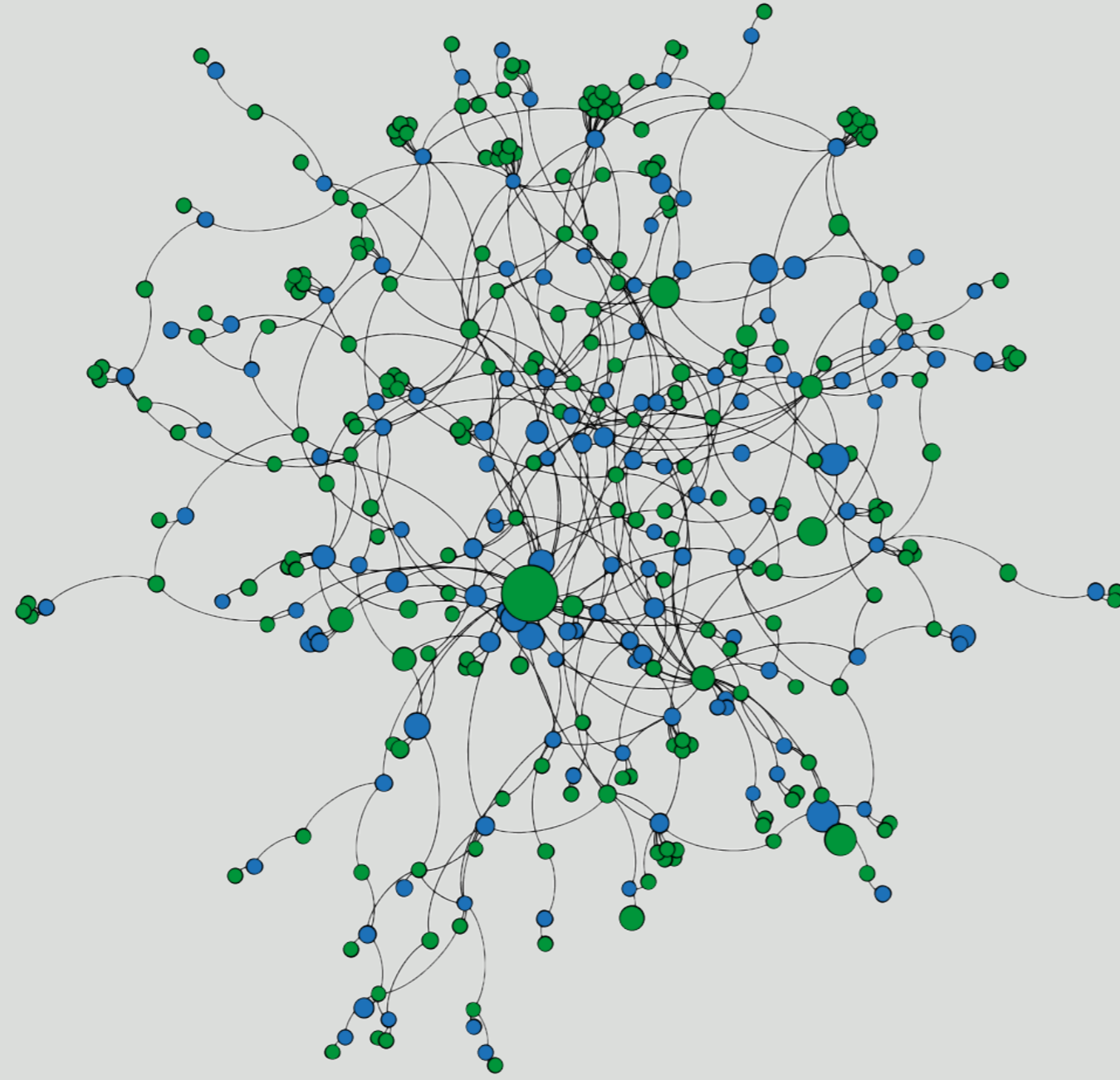


# STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

## NETWORK BETWEEN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS AND TRUSTS

Whilst a minority of structural engineers have taken a majority stake, the network both Trusts and engineering firms remains as complex as that illustrated for the architects.

The dynamic of single Trusts employing multiple professional design organisations is consistent; so too is the minority of firms working for multiple Trusts in multiple regions.



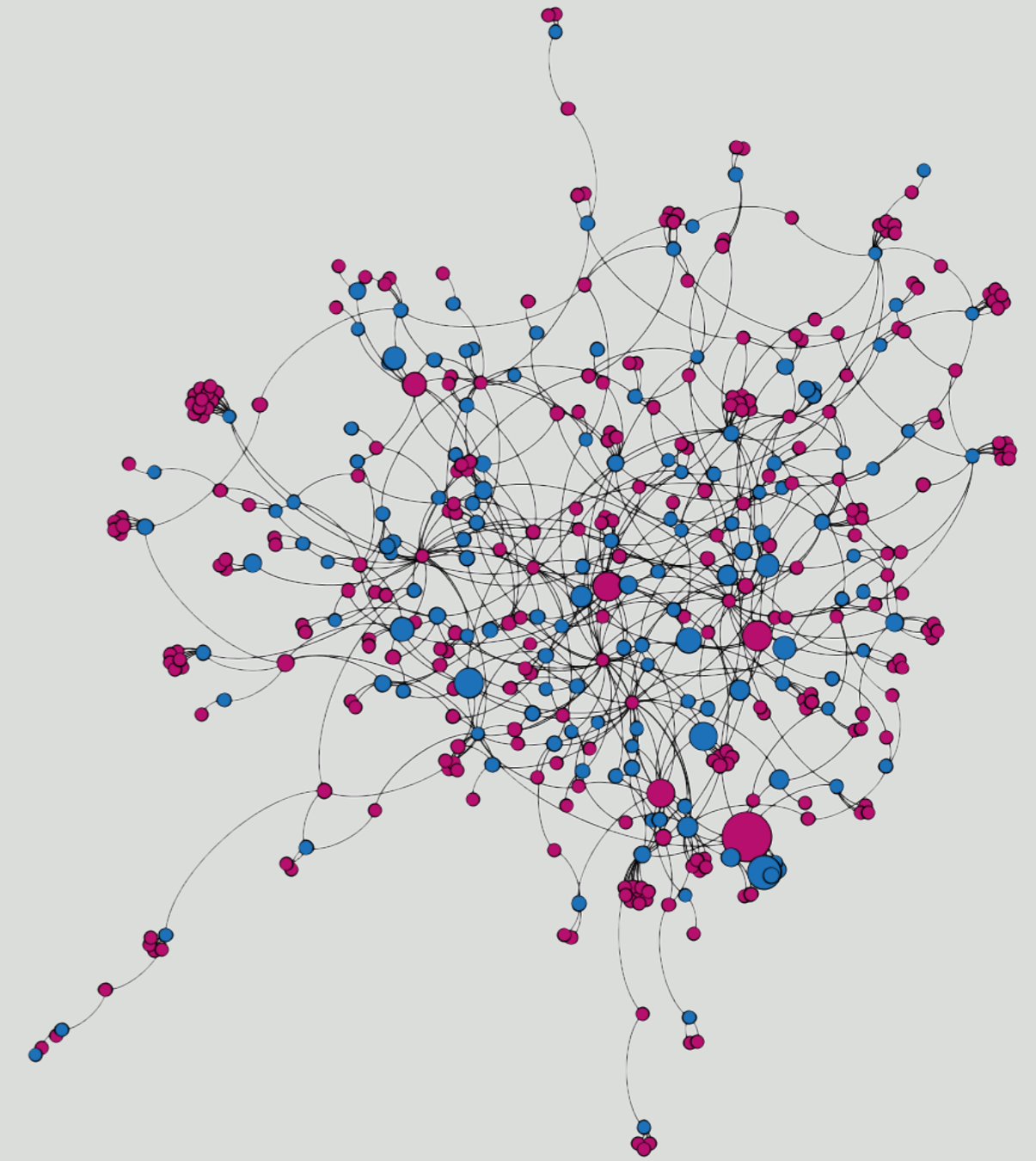
SCALE = VALUE (£m) OF WORK

● TRUSTS ● STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

# M&E ENGINEERS

## NETWORK BETWEEN M&E ENGINEERS AND TRUSTS

The principles carry forward in exactly the same manner to the MEP engineers.



SCALE = VALUE (£m) OF WORK

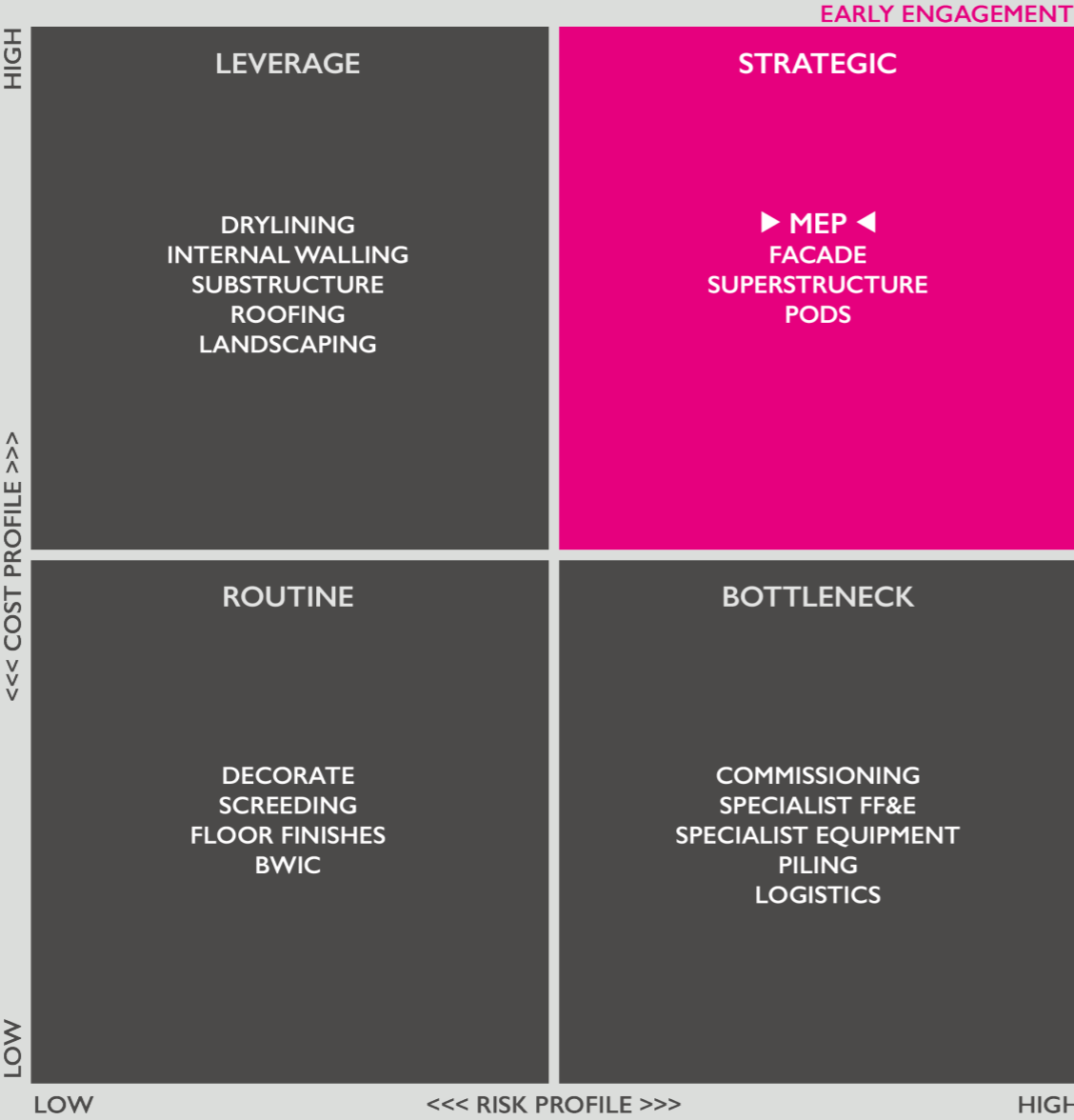
● TRUSTS ● M&E ENGINEERS

# MEP ENGINEERS

The mechanical and electrical systems of a healthcare project typically represent the largest proportion of works, with criticality to the delivery programme, the capital and operational cost and functionality of the hospital in use.

As a strategic, high-value element and typically with a high labour content, the potential benefits to be drawn from applying platform principles to the MEP design, manufacture and assembly are significant. The opportunity to develop standard, repeatable solutions offers significant potential to de-risk supply market otherwise challenged to meet capacity of the future NHP demand.

The awareness, understanding and engagement of MEP engineers to facilitate, enable and apply a platform based approach is therefore equally important as other design disciplines.

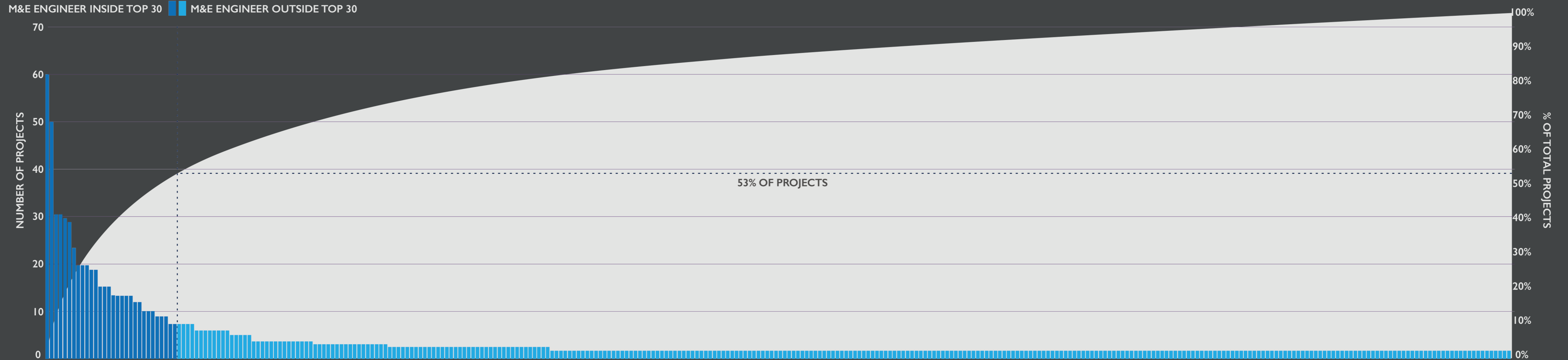


# ANOTHER FAMILIAR TAIL

**30 M&E ENGINEERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 53% OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN**

The M&E Engineering market follows the same pattern as the architects and structural engineers— a minority cluster of organisations undertook work at volume, followed by a long-tail.

The top 30 firms once again completed over half the projects by number and nearer 75% by value. Despite their dominance, the market leaders were not necessarily large scale companies however - in fact 80% of organisations within the top 30 were SMEs.

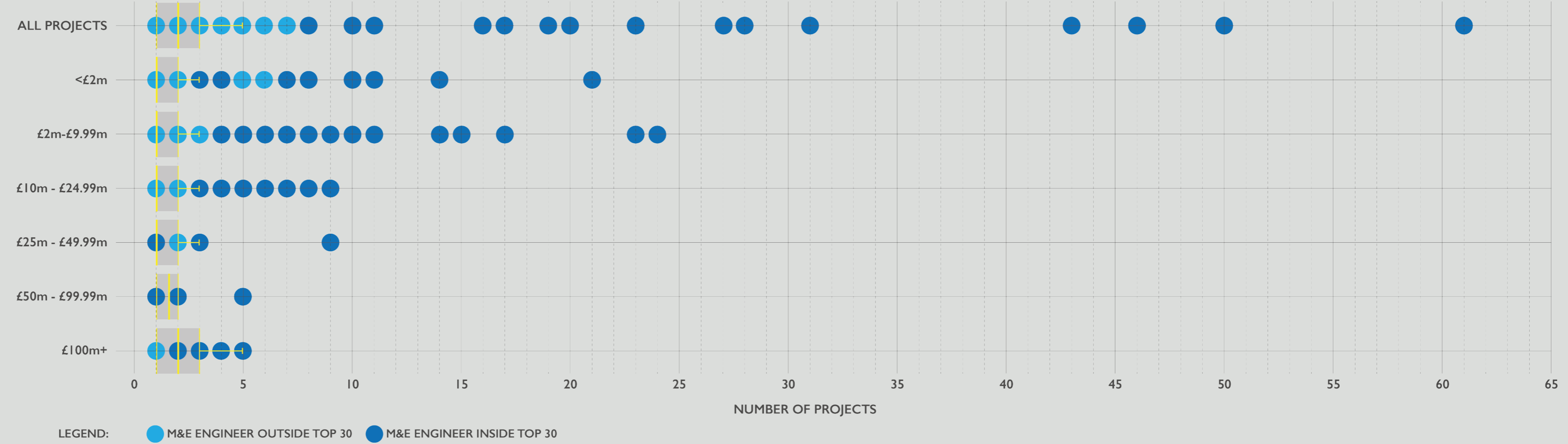


# MEP SERVICES

Most notably, the cluster of market leaders had almost exclusivity upon design of the projects at £25m plus. Whilst large scale hospitals have been designed by a variety of architects, extending beyond healthcare specialists, the MEP services were in almost every instance developed upto RIBA Stage 3 by the main market players.

Whether this trend will continue is conjecture, however it provides an indication of the influence of these common players in integrating and adopting platform thinking to a critical element.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS BY M&E ENGINEER AND VALUE BAND





**PART 7**

**CONTRACTORS**

# CONTRACTORS

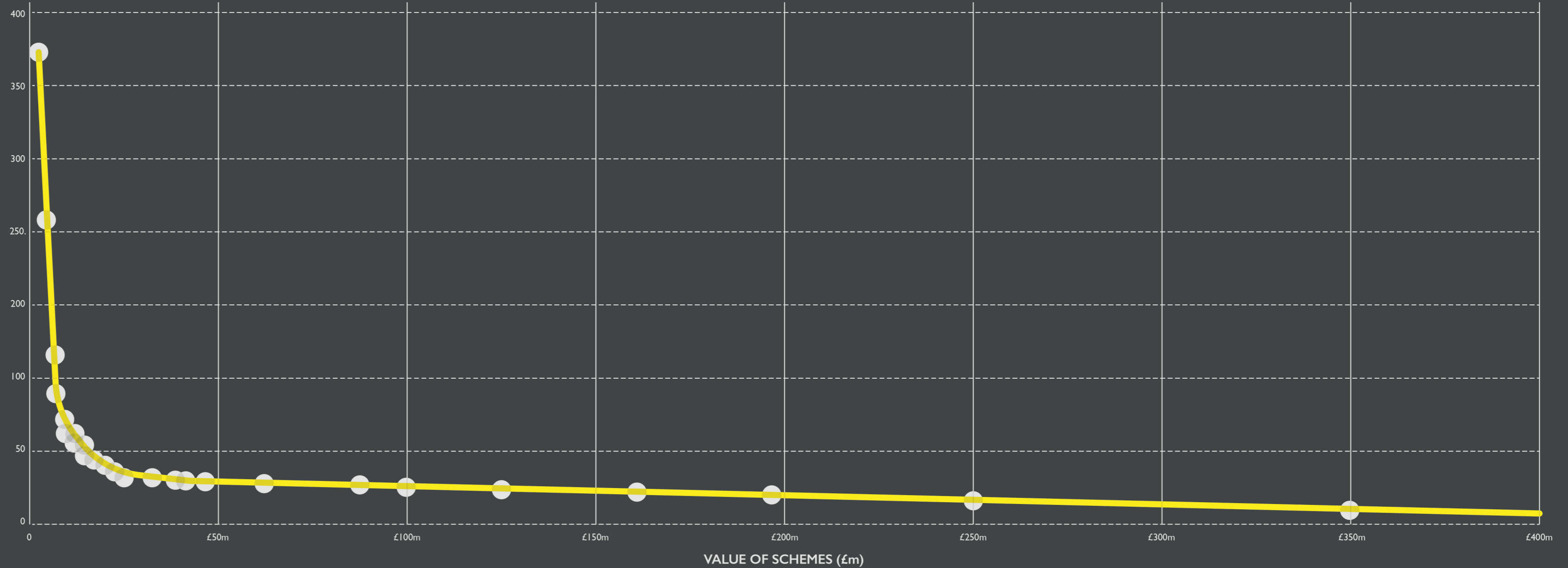
With concerns regarding market capacity regularly cited, the number of organisations that worked over the past decade in a main contracting role may come as a surprise ..... we identified 421 companies that acted a principal contractor on projects worth greater than £1m.

Whilst at a headline this offers promise further analysis suggests however that, consistent with profile of the design professionals, there is a two-tiered market.

The overriding majority of contractors worked locally on smaller value schemes, delivering a diverse range of new build, refurbishment and specialist fit-out. A far smaller cluster delivered at scale. To put this in context, over the past decade only 21 contractors delivered public healthcare projects worth more than £25m.

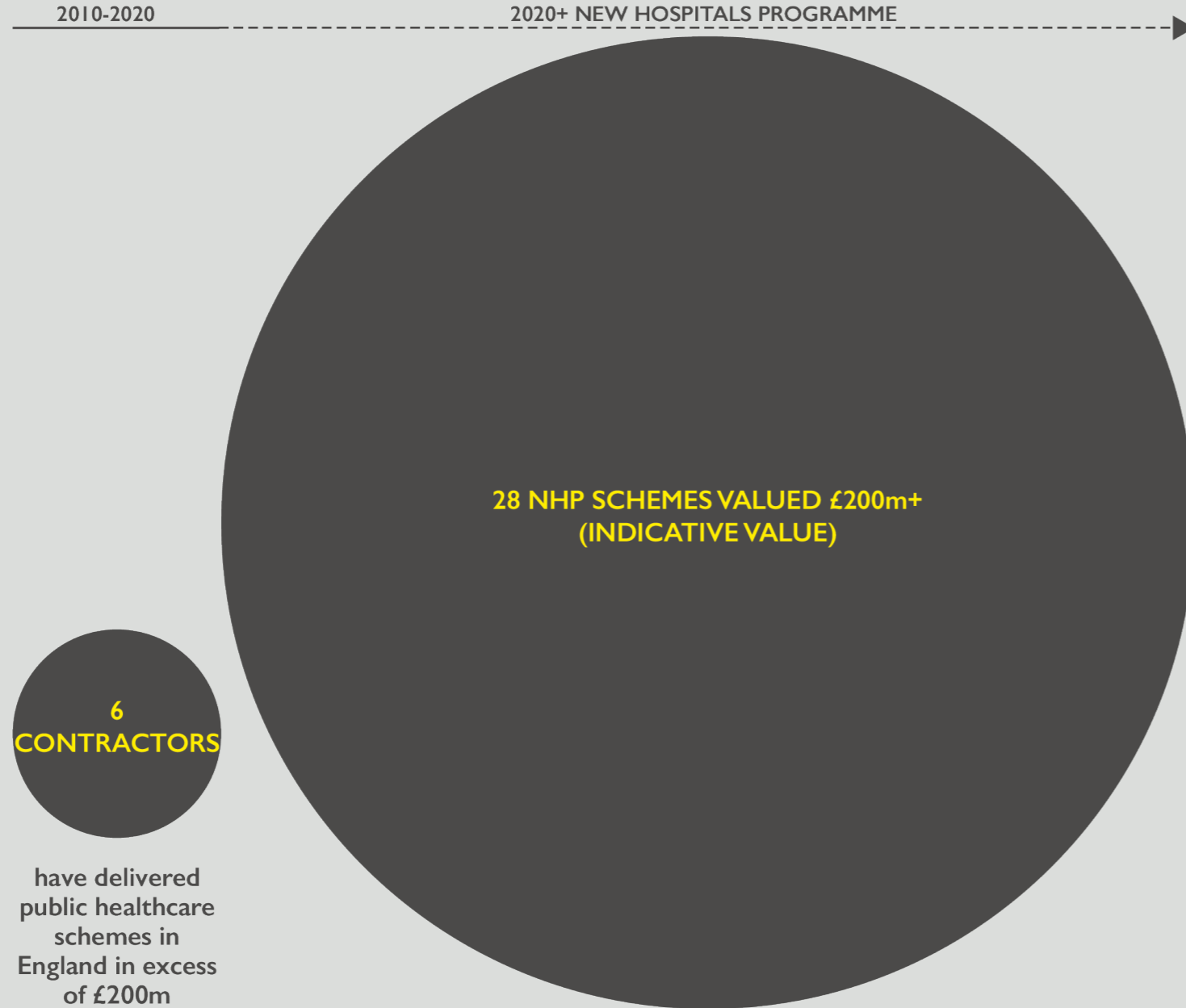
**ONLY 11 CONTRACTORS  
(INCL. CARILLION) DELIVERED  
PROJECTS GREATER THAN £100M.**

NUMBER OF MAIN CONTRACTORS WITH NHSE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY EXPERIENCE BETWEEN 2010 - 2020



# DELIVERING AT SCALE

The lack of experience in delivering at scale should represent a key consideration to delivery of NHP, given its demand profile.



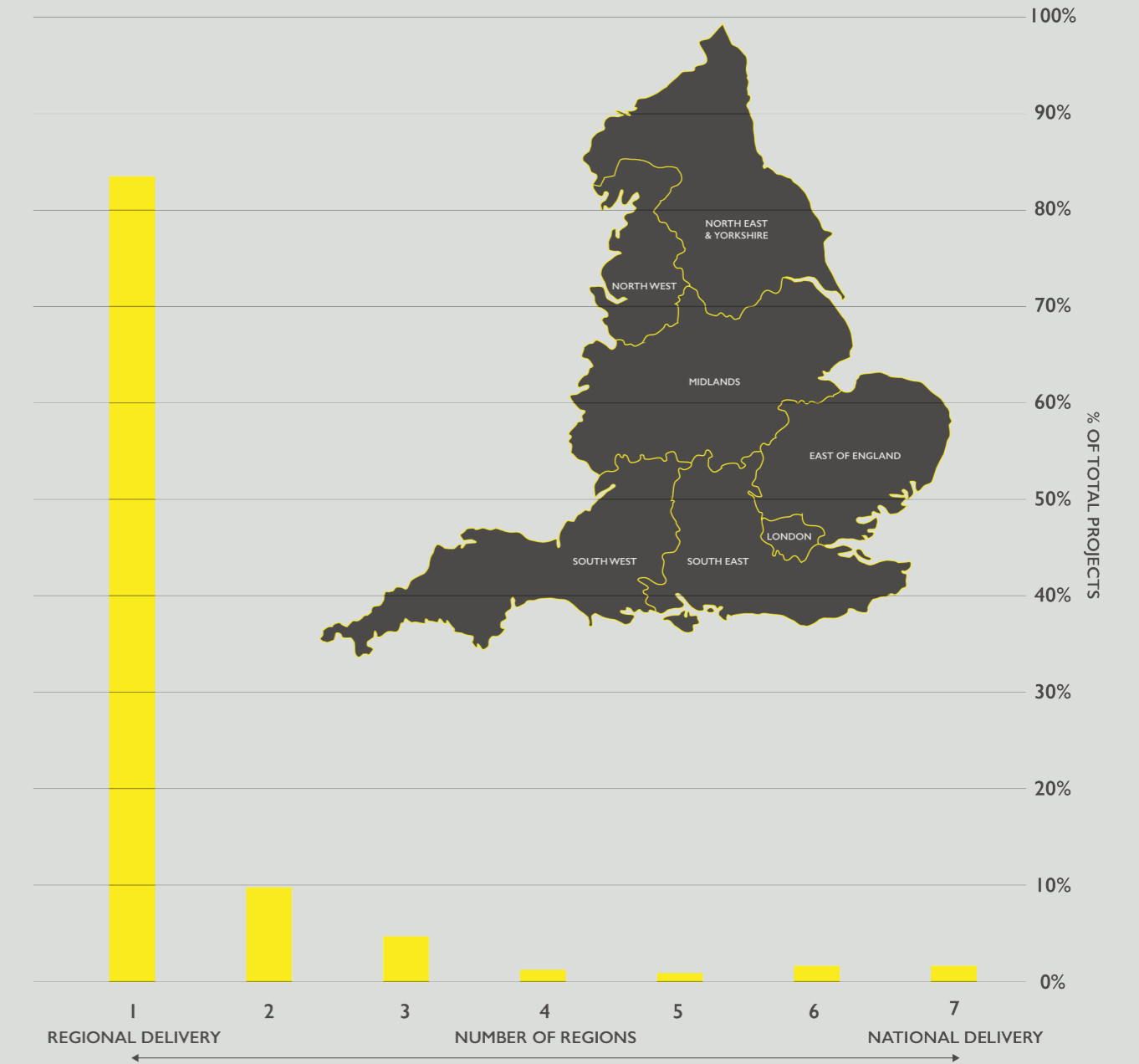
# REGIONAL VS NATIONAL DELIVERY

Whilst the market division by project size is worthy of note, the split between regional and national working is stark. The overriding proportion of contractors (83%) worked exclusively within the demise of a single NHSE/I region. Only 16 contractors (less than 5%) worked across 4 or more.

In many respects this localised landscape reaffirms the importance of a platform-based approach in establishing common threads that broaden the industry perspective beyond the singular projects or organisations and instead to a level that can identify and leverages efficiencies and economies of scale.

On the other hand, the dynamic of local contractors intermittently working on local projects, suggest that there is insufficient commonality of relationships to achieve this ambition through the contracting network, unless channelled via the cluster of established players.

Exploring this option may sound bells of preferential treatment however it is unlikely to widen any market gap further, with an exclusive network arguably already in existence via commercial frameworks, such as ProCure and CCS.



# FRAMEWORKS

The overlap between major players and the use of frameworks can be visualised by plotting the activity of the top 10 contractors:

- » 7 of the 10 contractors listed (plus Carillion prior to their insolvency) have been party to an iteration of the ProCure framework.
- » 75% of contractors working nationally across 6 or 7 regions have acted as a PSCP (Principal Supply Chain Partner) on ProCure framework at some point.

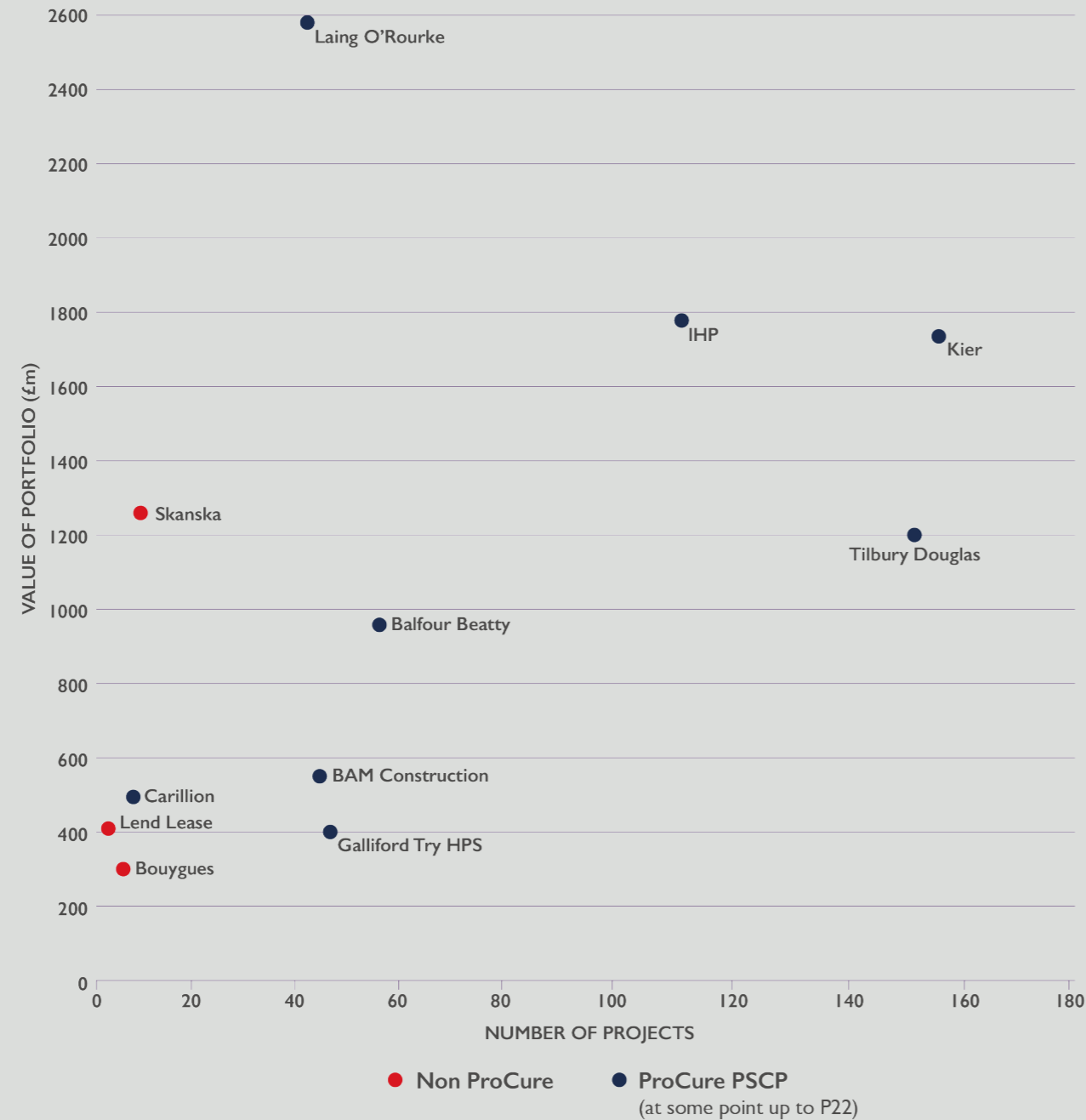
Whether a place on the framework is the result, cause or mutually reinforcing of a strong healthcare pedigree is open to debate.

In any event, commercial frameworks provide a powerful tool for strategic planning, integrated teams, continuous improvement and the delivery of better, safer, faster and greener project outcomes. In many respects they are, through commonality of relationships and process, an illustration of platform principles.

PSCPs selected under historical iterations of the ProCure framework have demonstrated these principles to great effect, collaborating to leverage platform principles as part of initiatives such as repeatable rooms and standard component agreements, in order to deliver better value for money.

As highlighted by Professor David Mosey's independent review "Constructing the Gold Standards", future frameworks could create the conditions and structure that enable the department's platform ambitions to gain traction. In fact, when reviewing the disaggregation of demand, it may be a critical success factor.

*Note: Figures for Carillion exclude Royal Liverpool and Midland Metropolitan on the basis that they were not completed prior to its insolvency.*



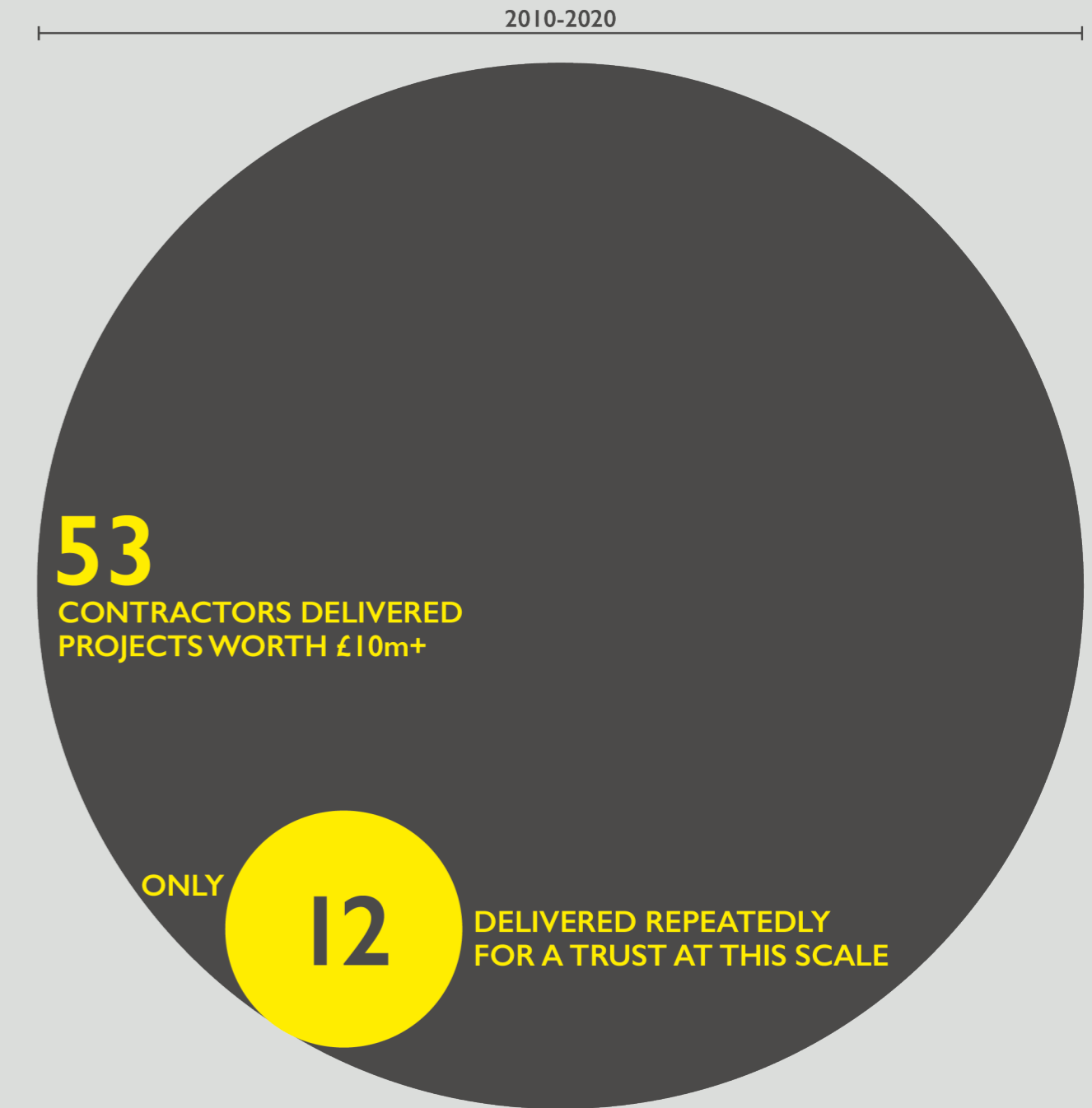
# ENGAGEMENT

In the past decade 38% of projects (circa 650 schemes) were one-off schemes for the market, without any continued engagement between a Trust and the contractor, save for that single project. A third of these instances can be easily explained, with the Trust having no additional demand to procure; the rationale for the balance, albeit not analysed, is expected to be caused by multiple factors not least competitive procurement. The net result represents a significant lack of continuity at B2B level that could arguably inhibit long-term investment and continuous improvement.

When analysing the larger project arena, the intermittent nature of work is even more vivid. We have identified 53 contractors that delivered projects worth over £10m between 2010 and 2020, however only 12 contractors worked more than once with a Trust at this scale. Notably, on only 6% of occasions can the rationale for severing the relationship be attributable to a lack of follow-on work.

Earlier in this report, we highlighted the intermittent demand of large-scale projects by Trusts. Our analysis of the contracting market adds a new dimension, identifying that even when there is a continuity of pipeline, in almost two-thirds of cases a new relationship is formed. Some may argue that is reflective of a healthy, competitive market whilst others may diagnose a transactional culture, littered with inefficiencies.

Irrespective of viewpoint, the Top 10 contractors (previously referenced) delivered over 80% (by value) of healthcare projects greater than £10m+. Whilst demand and trading relationships may be fluid, the presence of dominant market players remained a common feature.



# KEY MARKET CONTRACTORS ON £25M+ HEALTHCARE SCHEMES

Whilst we have highlighted the dominance held by a minority of contractors, this is not to infer that the major projects healthcare market (£25m +) has remained static.

Whilst the demise of Carillion is the most highly publicised exit of the sector others have following suit, albeit in somewhat more auspicious circumstances.

The prospect of pipeline growth, resultant of the pandemic and Health Infrastructure Plan, has equally attracted the interest and investment from new players, seeking to establish their position.

This includes the emerging prominence of organisations such as Darwin, MTX and ESS, reflecting a growth in demand for off-site, volumetric solutions.

The recent procurement of ProCure 23 and Crown Commercial Service Lot 5 (major projects) is expected to disrupt this landscape further.

The evolution of this picture holds implications for both the capacity of the Main Contracting market but also the landscape of the MEP supply chain.

With MEP such as critical and significant part of a hospital build, it is no coincidence that many of the health market leaders are vertically integrated with MEP delivery arms.

This commonality of relationship could again offer a potential route to quickly embed platform thinking with the market however its compatibility with principles of disaggregation of supply need to be considered.



MARKET STATUS - BASED ON DATA REVIEW OF PROJECT WINS 2020-2022



**PART 8**

**NEW HOSPITALS  
PROGRAMME**

# NEW HOSPITAL PROGRAMME (NHP)

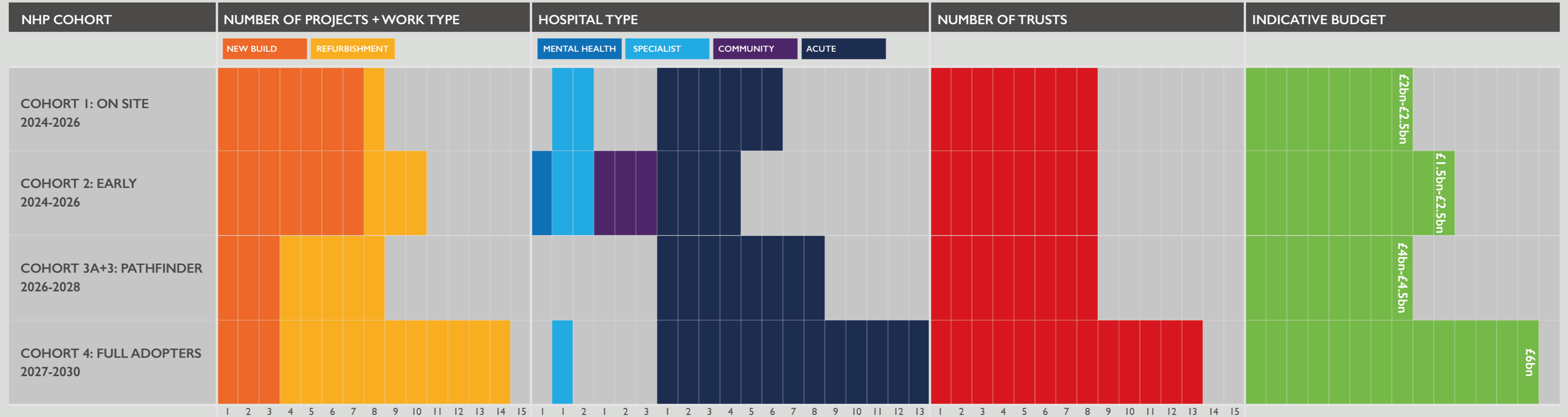
As has been referenced throughout this report, the Government has committed to build 40 new hospitals across England by 2030, backed by an initial £3.7bn of investment (between now and 2024).

The national programme comprises eight pre-existing schemes and 40 new projects. In October 2020, the government named the 32 hospitals which will form part of the 40 new hospitals, with an ongoing bidding process for the further eight. Collectively this investment represents the largest hospital building programme of a generation, intended to:

*“transform the delivery of national healthcare infrastructure across the NHS, to provide world-leading experiences for patients and staff”.*

Leading the delivery of the New Hospitals Programme is a joint central team, formed between the Department of Health & Social Care and NHS England & NHS Improvement. A centralised organisational structure has been created to underpin a programmatic approach that leverages scale, commonality of components and commodities, rationalises and standardises processes and facilitates shared learning to maximise value across the portfolio of work ..... platform principles.

The works has currently been split into 4 phases of activity, with schemes in construction and pathfinder schemes planned in recognition of the learning curve of adoption of both platform principles and MMC. The profile of the works is as illustrated here.

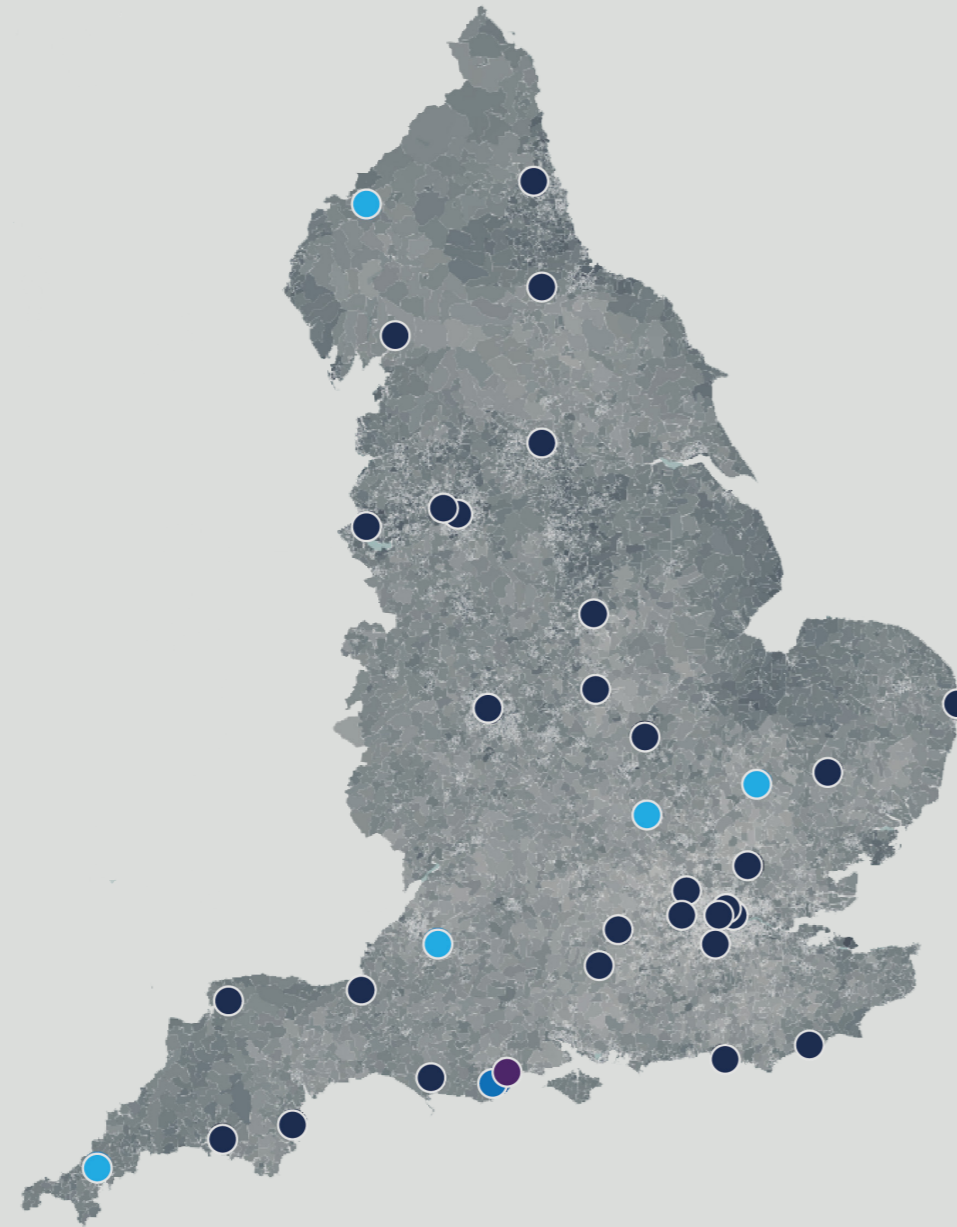
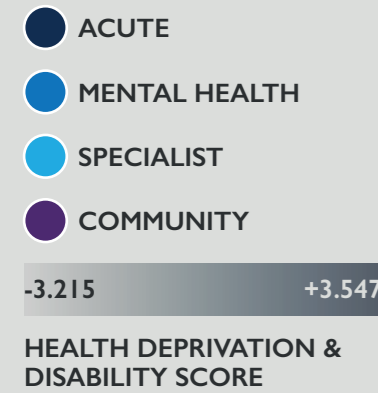


Please note: The budget forecasts are indicative, based upon high-level estimates (not reported figures) recognising that the majority of Cohorts 2, 3 and 4 remain subject to business case preparation, submission and approval.

# DISTRIBUTION OF NHP PROJECTS

The geographical distribution of the NHP is broad, as is the spectrum of communities in which the new hospitals serve.

For visibility we have plotted the location of the 40 schemes against a map of English Indices of Health Deprivation and Disability.

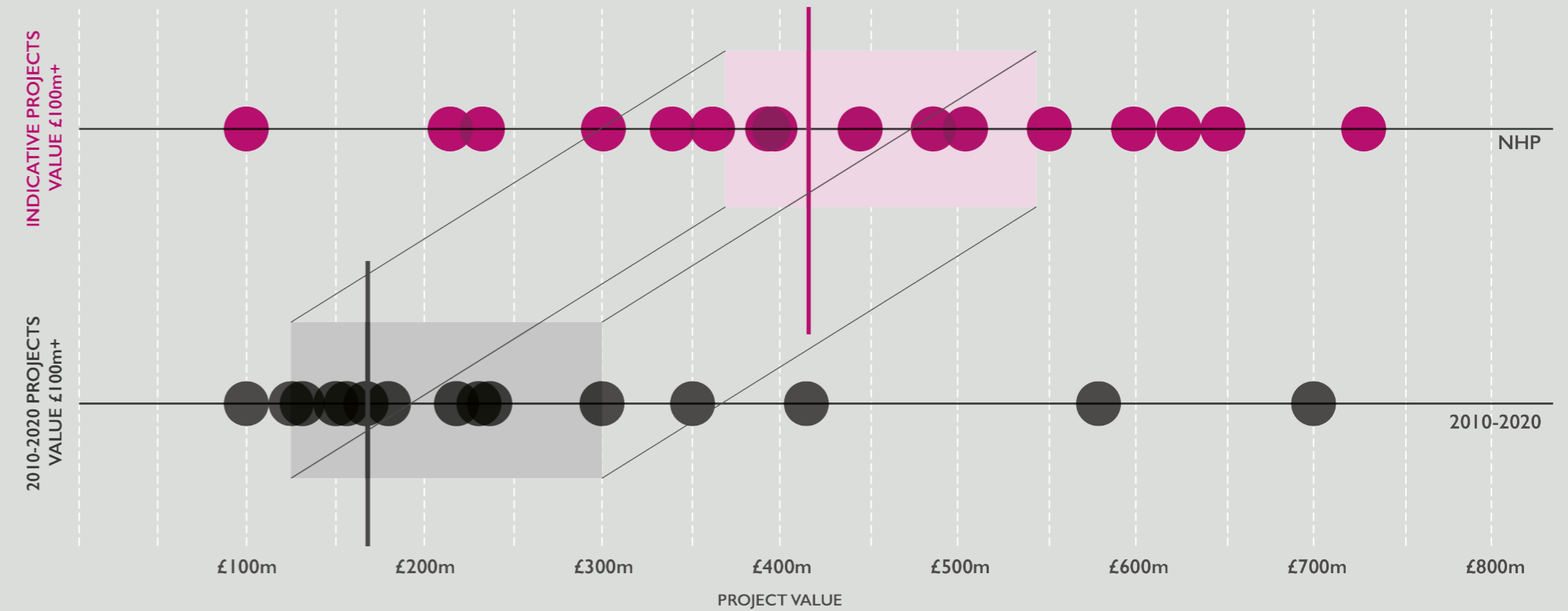


Source: English Indices of Deprivation, 2019

Evidencing the statement that NHP is the “biggest hospital building programme in a generation” we have mapped the forecast profile of planned schemes against those historically delivered between 2010-2020.

Whilst accepting a margin of error against the NHP figures (recognising the majority of schemes remain subject to business case), the shift in profile is nonetheless sizeable.

The quantity of schemes valued in excess of £100m is projected to almost double relative to previous, with fundamental change in the median size of schemes. The gap between forecast demand and demonstrable historical experience is clear.

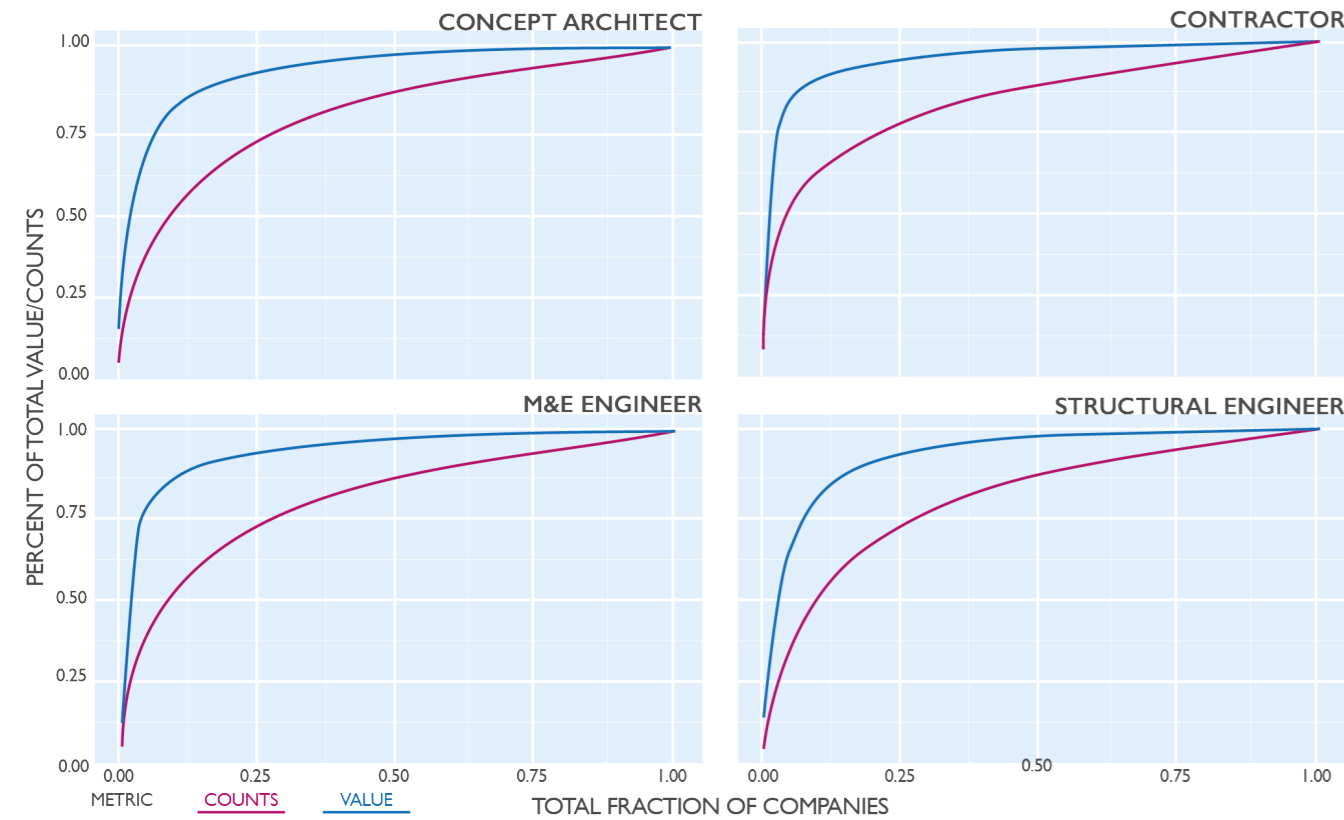


**PART 9**

**REFLECTIONS**

# MARKET SUITED TO PLATFORMING?

Platforming is not a panacea – but instead a strategic choice that offers benefits in certain contexts. Whilst many of the fundamental steps that underpin a platform-based approach are detailed within both the Construction Playbook and TIP Roadmap, neither document is specifically tailored to recognise the nuances of the healthcare sector.



Our retrospective review has been compiled to define and visualise the context – against which principles outlined within central government policy can be overlaid to inform how and where platforms may best be applied and embedded moving forwards.

Our analysis of the historical pipeline and industry activity has highlighted several trends:

**AT MACRO LEVEL THERE IS DEFINED SEGMENTS WITHIN THE SECTOR THAT COMMONALITY OF WORK AND/OR RELATIONSHIPS THAT CAN BE LEVERAGED.**

## The work profile

- » The majority of NHS Trusts provide acute care and thus the overriding proportion of capital investment follows suit.
- » The capital investment profile has been typically split equally between new build and refurbishment, with a rapidly-growing backlog maintenance demand
- » An almost continuous volume of low value (i.e. less than £2m) work exists, albeit this is fragmented across 212 Trusts

## The relationships

- » The strength of the network between Trusts and the supply chain is varied; repeat, strategic relationships do occur at a local level, albeit the extent varies significantly, depending upon the individual Trusts

## The supply chain

The supply market is formed by two distinct clusters:

- » A long tail of organisations working on single, often low-value projects, typically as part of a broader portfolio of construction work
- » A select group of healthcare specialists or market leaders that deliver regularly, often at scale

In the contracting fraternity, the market leaders have typically been ProCure framework partners – this being the channel for the largest volume of healthcare work.

# PLATFORM STRATEGY

To successfully embed a platform-based approach within the healthcare sector the complex dynamics (not least the diversity of workload, the fragmentation of actors and historical challenges with planning, prioritisation and approval of expenditure) need to be recognised and addressed through strategic planning.

The Platform Rulebook, highlights that a platform strategy should address decisions such as those shown in the image on the right.

With a defined project portfolio, the New Hospitals Programme appears to be significantly along its path in addressing these questions. Nonetheless, repeated communication of the strategic vision will be required to bind together individual Trusts and market actors alike in maintaining commonality and a shared consciousness through the lifespan of the programme.

Initiatives such as the Intelligent Hospital and NHSE/I's Future Standards Working Group suggest that the application of platform principles do not stop with NHP; the focus, shape and direction of the strategy for other market segments, beyond the production of technical standards and guidance, is less readily visible, however.

This is not to suggest that the need is any less... after all,

**“the Health Infrastructure Plan is not just about capital to build new hospitals”.**

**A DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH IS REQUIRED TO DEFINE AND SELECT AN APPROPRIATE STARTING POINT.**

STRATEGIC PLANNING DECISION	OUTPUTS
What is the strategic intent?	Platform Vision
Which segments of the capital estate portfolio are we focusing upon?	Market definition
What target benefits are we seeking to realise?	Strategic themes/outcome statements
What customisation and differentiation are required by the Trusts?	Commonality and differentiation plan
What is the financial model?	Platform business case
What is the pipeline demand?	Variant plan and volumes
What is the planning horizon of the standard technology (how quickly do requirements evolve?)	Platform horizon/lifespan
What are we planning to standardise and share?	Sharing strategy
How do we plan to manage the adoption of the platform?	Platform Governance Structure



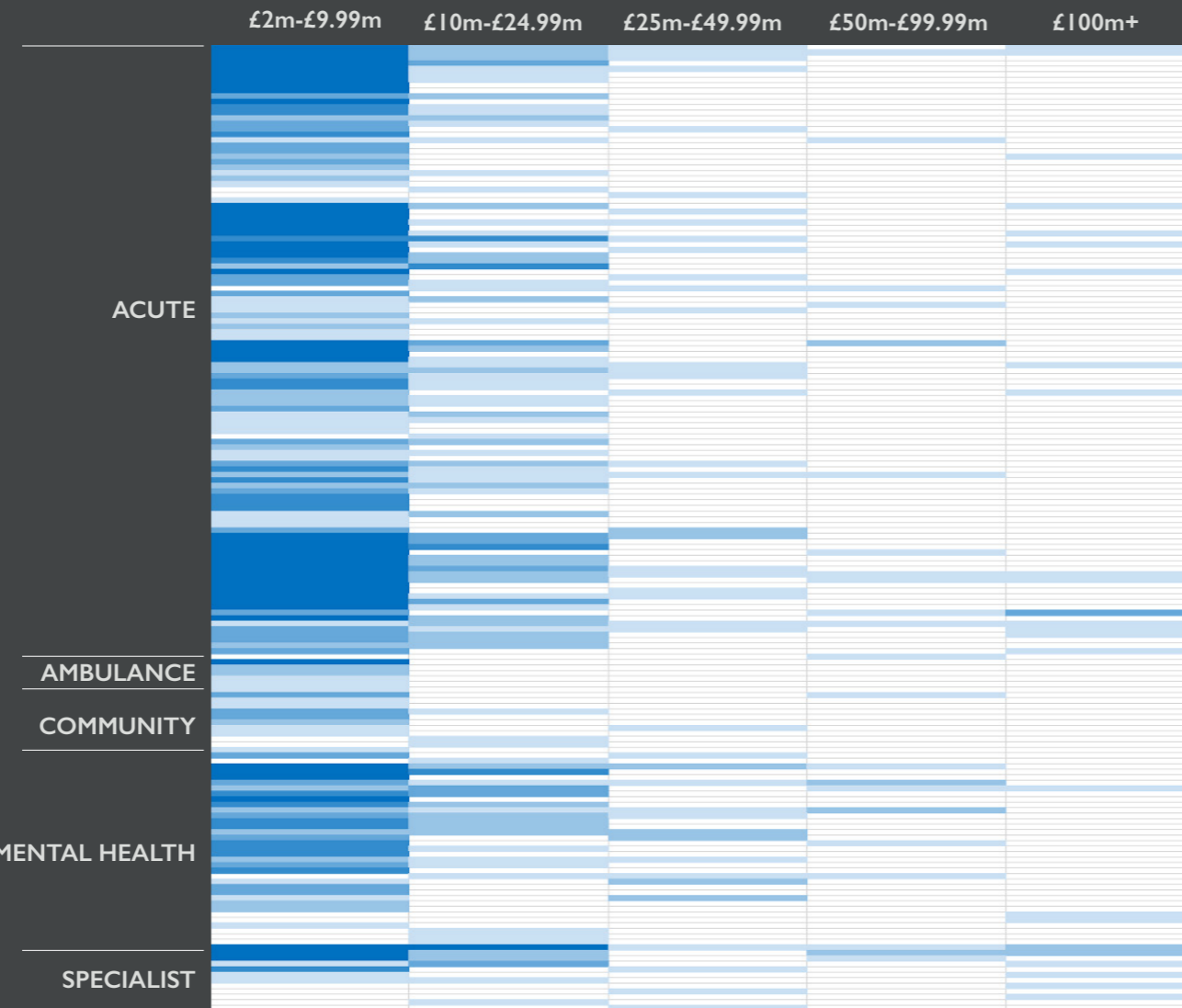
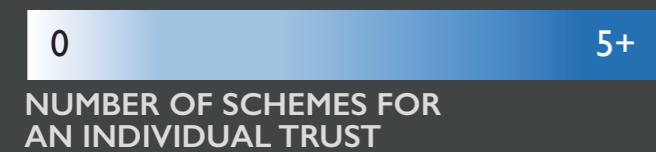
# DEFINING THE NEED

Drawing from historical data, our heat map suggests that over and above the focus of NHP, there is a sufficient scale of pipeline to justify the consideration towards platform strategies for both (i) mental health schemes and (ii) lower value projects in the acute sector. With sustainability drivers demanding the modernisation of the estate via retrofit and refurbishment, the latter will become ever-increasingly important.

Notwithstanding our analysis, the extent to which these market segments are truly appropriate for a platform-based approach needs robust review and evaluation against both pipeline projections and technical criteria, to mitigate optimism bias around the scale of commonality and sharing.

The Hub's Defining the Need report demonstrated, as proof of concept, how this exercise could be completed, in harmonising, digitising and rationalising demand. To ensure that the outcome of any comparable exercise is deliverable, systematic structural issues also need to be tackled, not least:

- » Capital expenditure planning, prioritisation and approval – in affording greater certainty and visibility of pipeline.
- » Central coordination / organisational structure – that aligns with a platform-based approach.
- » Collaboration and knowledge curation – that enables the ecosystem to sustain, evolve and continuously improve.



# PLANNING, PRIORITISATION AND APPROVAL OF WORKS

In reviewing the historical pipeline we have analysed exclusively those schemes that were delivered; we have not attempted to track the extent to which work was cancelled, deferred or delayed. There is however a wealth of commentary to suggest that the process for planning, prioritisation and approval of works can and needs to be improved. The Health Infrastructure Plan acknowledges that a reformed system underpinning capital is required to make NHS infrastructure fit for the future. The Nuffield Trust were more forthright in their observations regarding the same, stating:

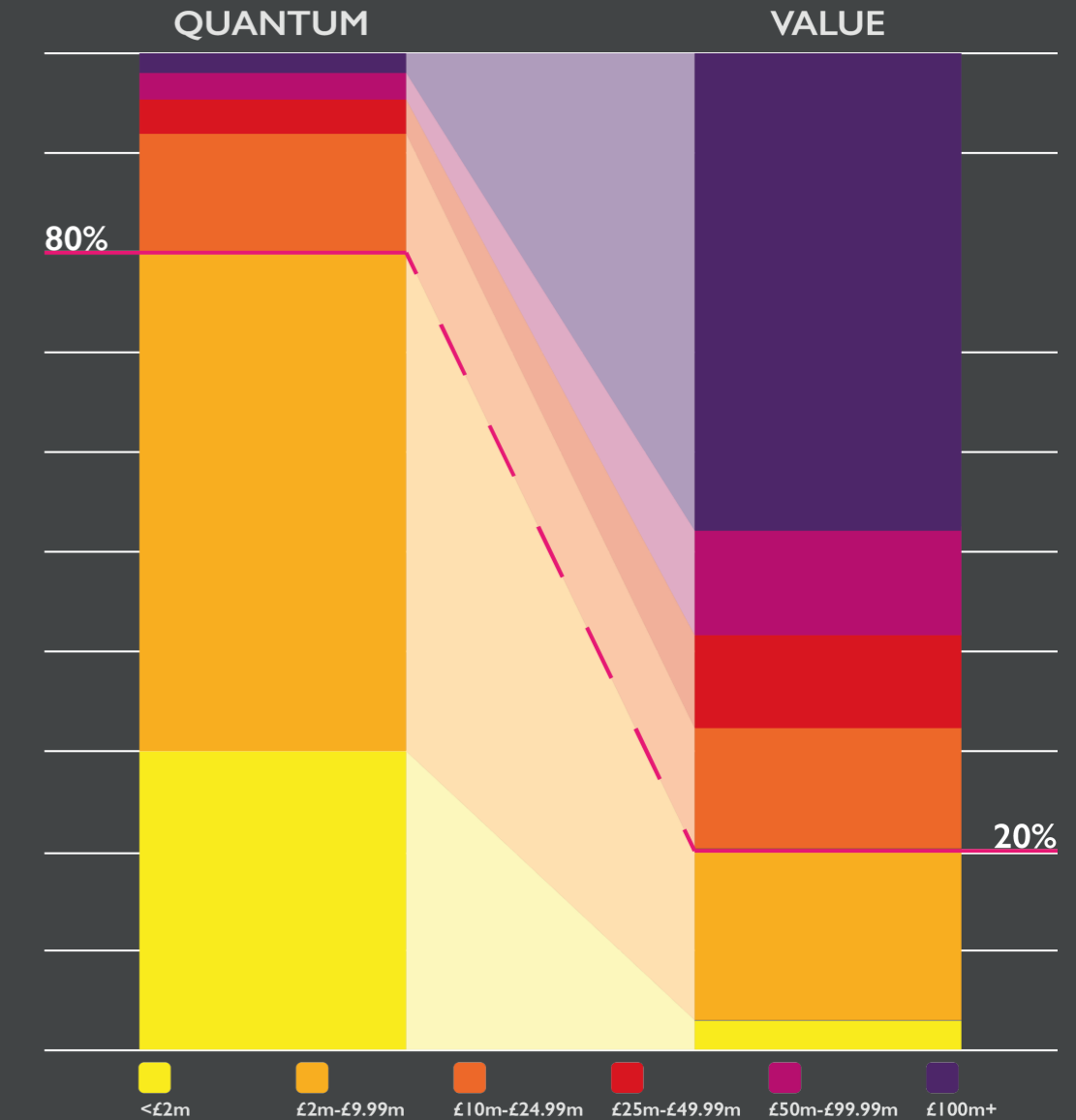
*“The capital approvals process appears to have developed over the last 20 years as a method of capital rationing and delay rather than as a rational approach to capital allocation. The emphasis on a high level of detailed scrutiny at different stages of the approvals process has created a great deal of delay.”*

To leverage economies of scale and support longer-term capability growth, a modernised approach to capital allocation and approvals is required.

**“Getting it right starts by publishing pipelines and identifying where we can create portfolios to drive investment in new technologies and sustainable solutions”**

Construction Playbook

This needs to capture both large and smaller scale projects to address the two ends of the market.



# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Carter Review (Productivity in NHS Acute Hospitals) highlighted within the NHS “a systematic failure to capture the benefits of scale” and a need for greater collaboration and cooperation to derive efficiencies and improvements. Whilst pointed towards the delivery of clinical services, the same principles apply to the delivery of the capital budget.

The devolved structure of the Trusts and independency of projects is a challenge to a platform-based approach and the realisation of the benefits it affords. It warrants centralised coordination of some description however exactly where to draw the line is a critical decision.

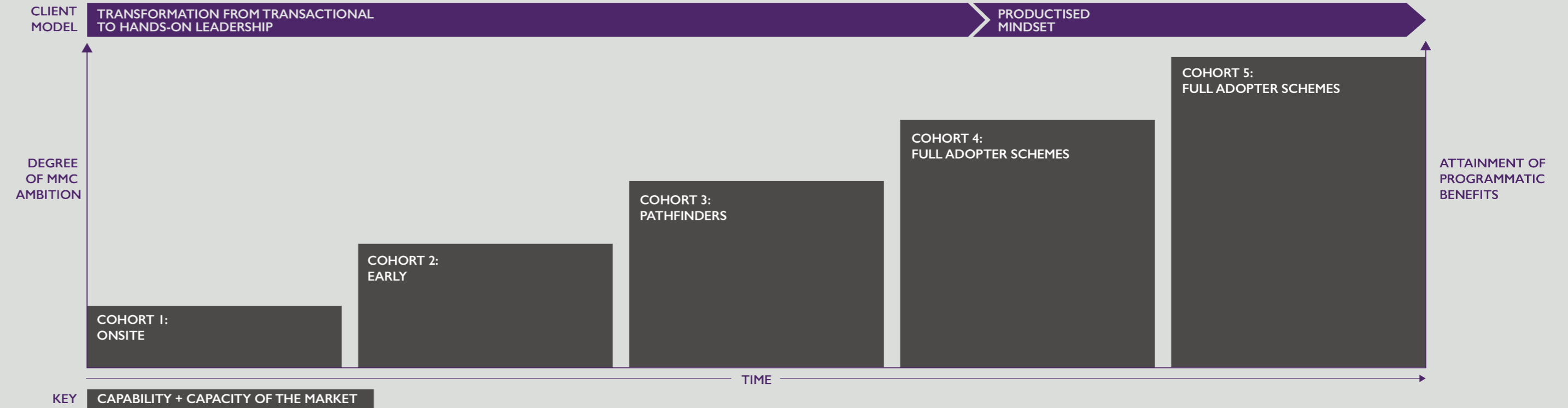
The NHS has been historically criticised for “veering between centralisation and decentralisation with alarming speed but dull predictability”; the conundrum as to where best to gravitate towards is not new. In 1979, Henry Mintzberg wrote:

*“The words centralisation and decentralisation have been bandied about for as long as anyone has cared to write about organisations.”*

Time has not made the challenge any easier to solve.

Albeit 100 years ago, Alfred Sloan famously implemented a framework labelled as ‘Co-ordination by Committee’ to embed a platform-based approach within General Motors decentralised divisional structure. More recently in the context of common-pooled resources, Elinor Ostrom advocated a polycentric system of governance. Both models, whilst distinct, recognise the sensitive balance between control and autonomy, commonality and local distinction.

As NHP seek to move from transactional, to hands-on and ultimately a “productised” mindset the relationship between NHSE/I and the Trusts will similarly need to evolve. The solution for other market segments will need as much, if not more consideration, to facilitate and enable the ecosystem to thrive.



# KNOWLEDGE CURATION

The Nuffield paper “*Lessons from the last hospital building programme*” outlined the importance of skills and expertise and how limited curation of knowledge nationally led to examples of reinventing the wheel. Reducing learning curves is a key benefit of a platform-based approach however diffusing the platform principles through the organisational networks we have identified will require concerted effort.

To offset this point, the New Hospitals programme has stated:

*“We are working to develop best practice guidance and standards that we will be able to use across the board .... Those [best practice] guides will be dynamic and we’ll be continuing to feed them in order to support all the organisation with the latest intelligence on how to build a new hospital”.*

New Hospitals Programme

Historically the Future Healthcare Network sought to fulfil a similar ambition, in spreading expertise and facilitating dialogue between schemes and with advisors, contractors and other experts. Whilst valuable and well supported at the time, in retrospect this was not enough alone to meet the need in this area.

To successfully embed the platform principles in a manner that facilitates learning, adaptation and continuous improvement (not least feedback from post-occupancy evaluation) will require a step-change in information sharing. In his book, *Team of Teams*, General Stanley McChrystal describes the need for connectivity of common purpose and transparent communication to establish a state of shared consciousness amongst decentralised, interdependent organisations.

Closer to home, research studies have advocated central leadership for standardised data exchange to support the healthcare building sector to “avoid duplication, fragmentation, redundancy and repetition”. A multi-modal approach including collegiate forums, the application of digital tools (not least open-source health planning and design knowledge resources) and a cultural shift will be required in unison to make in-roads.

The realisation of benefits through a platform approach will rely heavily upon the commitment of project leadership and implementation by design and professional teams.

# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

By our assessment of work conducted in the past decade, **10 organisations (a mix of contractors and designers) were involved in the delivery of schemes amounting to circa 75% of expenditure.**

Ostensibly, this is the strongest point of commonality across the market, providing a clear focal point in which knowledge, understanding and application of platform principles could be swiftly and successfully embedded. Whether this represents the right approach however is debatable.

This simplistic model ignores the reality that the most significant market players are predominantly large scale organisations, with regional teams delivering healthcare projects periodically, as part of multi-sector portfolios. They too will have challenges in driving consistency, albeit behind closed doors.

Equally providing prioritisation to perceived market leaders only serves to reinforce their dominance and the existence of two market tiers, it will not encourage and enable a new dynamic. Instead, a model that supports SMEs to invest in skills development and the adaptations required by platform-based approach would appear better aligned with the intended outcomes.

Whilst Mechanical, Electrical and Public Health trades have been thrust into the spotlight (recognising MEP is typically the largest constituent element of a healthcare scheme), this should not detract from the importance of educating and supporting capital estates and professional teams in their journeys.

*“The shortage of experienced project directors with the knowledge and ability to draw together the client-side expertise of the NHS is a major concern”*

The Nuffield Trust

*“Adopting the proposed P-DfMA approach will inevitably require all professionals across the built environment to develop the necessary skills more widely. While the skills required do exist within some [architecture] practices, this is not necessarily widespread.”*

RIBA

At a project level the shape of the opportunities for the supply chain is generally determined by the parameters and context set by the early-stage team.

The ability to realise the benefits promised by a platform-based approach will therefore rely heavily upon the commitment and understanding of both estates leadership and design and professional teams as much if not more so than the enthusiasm of the market.

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Pg 8 Oliver David Kreig at Intelligent City (via Twitter)

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Pg 11 ‘Modernization of Our Hospital System’: The National Health Service, the Hospital Plan, and the ‘Harness’ Programme, 1962–77 Alistair Fair (2018)

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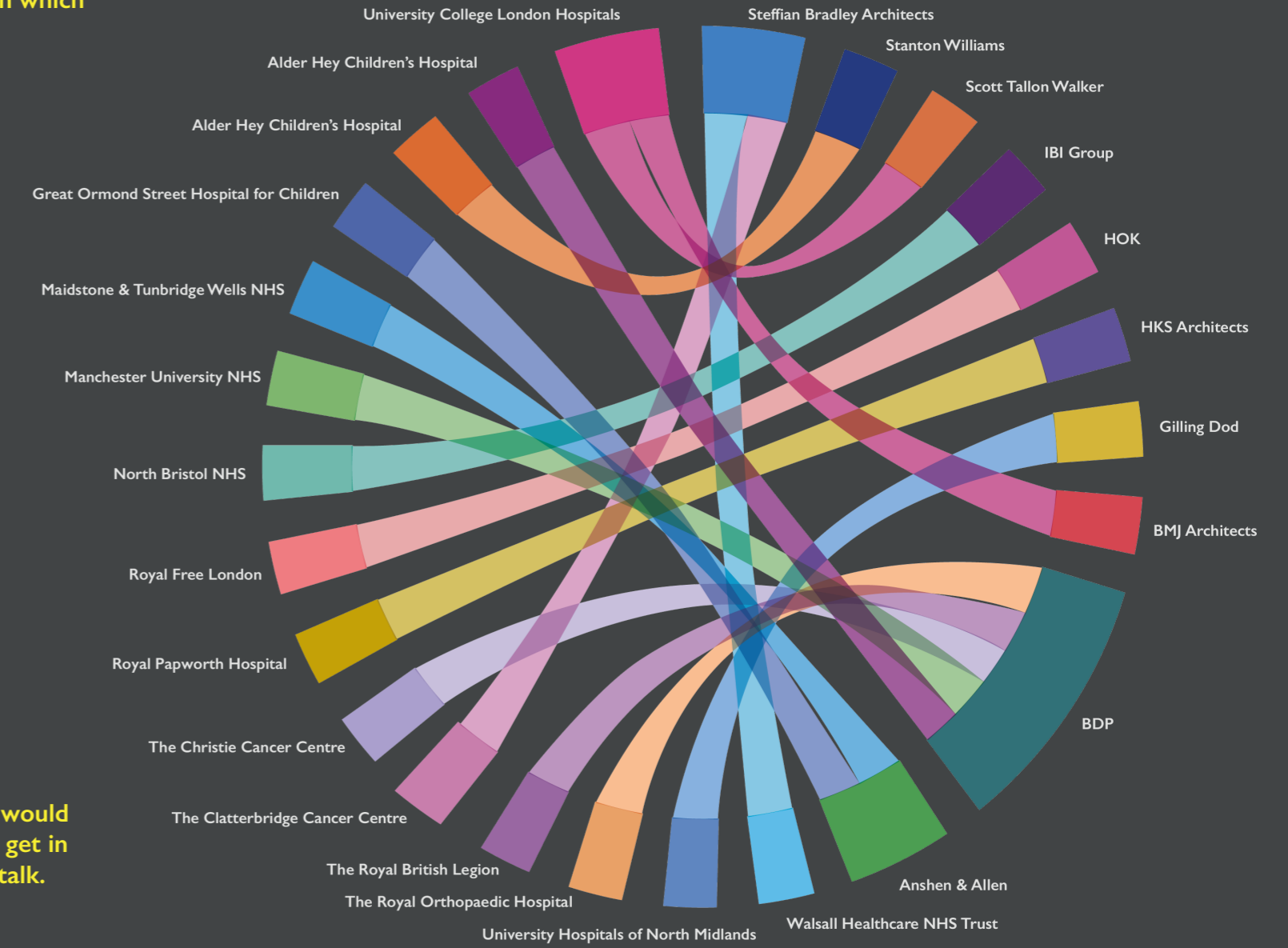


# AKERLOF

Akerlof is a consultancy that specialises in delivering better outcomes through modern methods of construction. In the past 24 months alone we have contributed to:



Through the development of our dataset, we are able to define specifically which organisations have worked with which (and how regularly).



If, having read this report, you would like to learn more, then please get in contact with us – we'd love to talk.

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