



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

# ESFA Condition Data Collection (CDC)

## Purpose, benefits and limitations

This short document explains why the ESFA are undertaking the CDC. It summarises how CDC data may be useful to schools and responsible bodies. It also summarises the limitations of CDC data.

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Of interest to schools and responsible bodies

The CDC is a data collection programme; it is not a full condition survey of the type often commissioned locally by responsible bodies. The ESFA will collect data on all government maintained schools in England. We recognise that schools and their responsible bodies commission asset management surveys which may appear similar in scope. The CDC is designed to achieve the particular objectives detailed below and be consistent across the school estate.

The CDC follows the Property Data Survey (PDS) undertaken between 2012 and 2014. Lessons learned from the PDS have informed the development of the CDC. This document provides a short explanation of the scope and limitations of the CDC.

We are keeping schools, their responsible bodies and related professional bodies informed as the programme progresses. We are also inviting them to provide feedback to help us improve further.

## **Purpose**

The programme is designed to enable a fair distribution of capital maintenance funding. Its use to the department is as follows:

- enabling capital allocation which is informed by school condition
- identifying school blocks in need of replacement
- supporting the development of capital allocations policy
- providing evidence to justify capital bids to treasury

Responsible bodies (and, ultimately, their schools) will benefit from capital allocations. This is based on a consistent assessment across key elements of need. The department will use the data to target aggregated funding allocations, but it will not be suitable for individual school level decisions without additional information.

## Benefits

The CDC data will provide the department with a fair and consistent view of condition across the education estate. Schools and responsible bodies may also find the CDC data useful, as it can be used to:

- contribute to a broader view of condition need at a school
- highlight condition issues which need attention or further investigation
- provide a view of roof condition which is not normally seen
- provide good photographic evidence of condition issues
- support bids for condition funding (e.g. Condition Improvement Fund)
- highlight a lack of required building compliance and management documentation at a school

## Limitations

The CDC cannot on its own, provide enough information to support a comprehensive condition report for any individual establishment that is suitable for asset management planning. This is because:

- it is not invasive (only visible condition is inspected)
- it is not structural (critical structural repairs may not be identified)
- it does not report on hazardous materials (principally asbestos)
- it does not address critical health and safety requirements such as fire and intruder alarm functionality (although surveyors observing major health and safety issues will report these directly to the school).
- it does not take into account building use or capacity.
- it does not provide descriptions of defects and remedies or cost information for schools or responsible bodies.

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