

6 April 2006

To:
Directors of Estates and Facilities
Chief Executives of all NHS Trusts

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(Gateway reference – 6396)

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Dear colleague,

NATIONAL CAPABILITIES SURVEY (ROCR REF: ROCR/OR/0042/FT6/004)

As you know, all NHS trusts in England, including Foundation Trusts, have been asked to complete the National Capabilities Survey, which aims to identify our current level of preparedness to deal with disruptive events. A letter was sent out to Trust Chief Executives from Sir Nigel Crisp on 1 February to this effect.

The main survey has been sent to emergency planning leads in trusts for completion using the Department of Health's *UNIFY* system. However, a subset of questions covering hospital infrastructure have been sent directly to Directors of Estates and Facilities for completion using the DH Estates efm-information system (*ERIC*), which went live on 31 March.

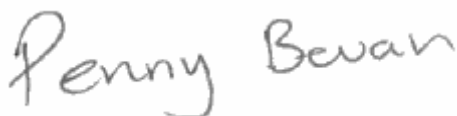
These questions form section 21 of the annual *ERIC* return, and cover a range of estates-focussed emergency planning issues such as resilience to power failure, telecommunications systems and so on. The returns will be analysed alongside the main survey.

The main survey is due for return by 29 March. *ERIC* returns follow a different timetable, and are due for completion by 30 April. Because of the need to feed back returns into the cross-government analysis of the National Capabilities Survey in May, it is extremely important that section 21 responses are submitted by the 30 April deadline.

I would therefore be very grateful if you could ensure that each of your facilities completes section 21 of the *ERIC* return by this date.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Penny Bevan'.

Dr Penny Bevan
Head of Emergency Preparedness