



## PRESS STATEMENT

11 December 2015

### **Challenging times, but positive about the future: NHS Providers publishes second regulation survey**

NHS Providers, the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services, has today (11 December) published the results of the [second annual survey](#) of its members' experience of the regulatory frameworks. Key findings indicate that whilst the sector continues to face challenges, it remains positive about the future of the NHS.

Miriam Deakin, head of policy at NHS Providers, said:

"We are pleased to present the findings of our second regulation survey. Although there has been no legislative change, the NHS provider sector has experienced a number of changes to the regulatory system over the last 12 months, including the introduction of the success regime; the announcement that Monitor and TDA will align under the new operating name of NHS Improvement with a much greater focus on support, a strengthened *Risk Assessment Framework* for foundation trusts; new caps on agency and management consultancy spend; and the announcement that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will review its strategy for the future and begin to assess providers' use of resources.

"It is therefore timely for us to capture what NHS providers feel to be the benefits, and the burden, of regulation. We know that proportionate and risk based regulation is fundamental in assuring minimum standards in the sector are met for patients, and we hope that these findings will inform the development of the regulatory regime, and indeed the future focus of both CQC and NHS Improvement in the year ahead.

"The results of this year's survey show that our members have welcomed a shift in national rhetoric from intervention to support; they believe that the regulators have an understanding of the pressures they face at a local level, and have highlighted the progress they have made in coordinating activity and providing more consistent messages.

"However, respondents also felt that improvements could be made to the overall regulatory system, and raised concerns about a significant increase in regulatory reporting and scrutiny over the last year. This can result in additional burdens being placed on NHS providers at an extremely challenging time, and adversely impact upon the time and space that senior leaders have to invest in local relationships and develop new care models, while maintaining day to day operations.

"We would like to thank our members for their contributions to this year's survey, and look forward to continuing to work with the regulators as they develop their approaches. Given the changes ahead, we all have a prime opportunity to maximise value from the regulatory approach for all involved, and ensure regulation is balanced with appropriate investment in support and development."

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### **About NHS Providers**

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has more than 90% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
- Follow NHS Providers on twitter @NHSPROVIDERS , Chris Hopson, chief executive, @ChrisCEOHopson
- A full list of NHS Providers' press releases and statements can be viewed in the news section of our homepage [www.nhsproviders.org](http://www.nhsproviders.org)
- Contact Caroline Bernard, head of communications, 07938 524 366