

# UK Healthcare Property Market Overview 2022/23



## MARKET OVERVIEW



Julian Evans, FRICS Partner, Head of Healthcare

The UK Healthcare Property Market Overview 2022/23 will take a look at market trends over the past year as well as presenting a forward view. Whilst 2022 presented a number of standout factors which have continued to shape the sector, it is paramount to consider how the year ahead will play out with matters such as inflation and cost of debt playing a key part in the sector's future.

### **Market overview**

Operator occupancies continue to recover from their pandemic lows, currently trending around the mideighties with a number of operators reporting occupancies in the nineties. Inflationary pressures remain a point of concern due to the possible impacts to operator trading with our recent research highlighting that utilities account for c.34% of property costs. All care fees are up 3.3% on the year with privatepay homes achieving around 8.5% fee growth. The main question that emerges is to what extent can fees rise to allow operators to offset inflationary pressures and the resulting cost of care provision. Overall, EBITDARM as a percentage of income has grown from last year's level

of 26.2% to 26.3%, as seen in Figure 1. Whilst a relatively modest increase, it should certainly be considered a move in the right direction for the sector. The fact that the sector managed to keep margin compression to a minimum during the pandemic and has now begun to progress back towards normalised levels should provide further confidence in the sector's resilience and underlying fundamentals.

### Occupancy

Following the dip experienced at the start of the pandemic and subsequently the levels held to the end of the 2020/21 financial year, there has been a clear emphasis on trends in average occupancy with a view to understanding the sector's distance to a normalised state.

Average occupancy levels are up to 84.3% in comparison to the previous year's 79.4%. Though this is still short of pre-pandemic levels, there are a number of operators with homes across the UK now trading well above these levels.

### Investment

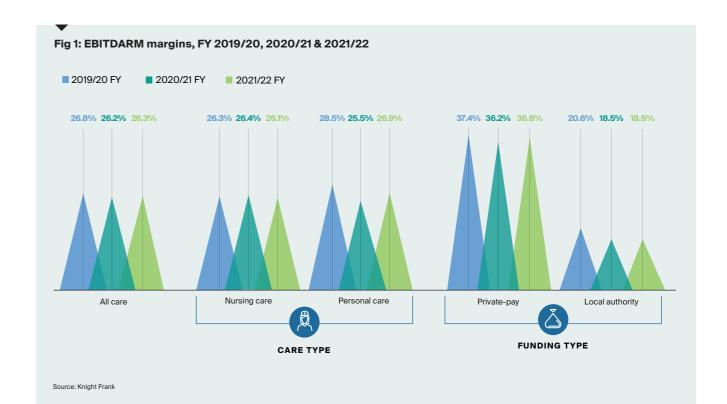
Rolling four quarter volume to Q4 2022 sits at approximately £2.1bn, down by approximately £200m for the same period last year. This, however, is an example of a more organic transaction volume than we have seen in recent years due to the absence of any outlier large portfolio transactions as in previous years with overseas REITs taking the Priory and BMI assets. Whilst the sector remains active with yields softening in line with stronger gilt rates, investors are wisely gauging pricing level. We are now seeing yields across the sector pushing out by circa 50bps on average.

### **Bed supply**

In 2022, approximately 10,000 new beds were granted via planning applications, this is via a mix of refurbishment and extensions to existing stock as well as new build schemes. Whilst completion of these schemes will provide a substantial addition to circa 480,000 existing bed supply, an important consideration is the type of scheme and the potential of delivery. A number of the potential new beds are by way of mixed-use schemes with the option for an on-site care setting, which may not reach build out due to social and economic factors impacting feasibility. It is also key to note the extent to which these new beds will be

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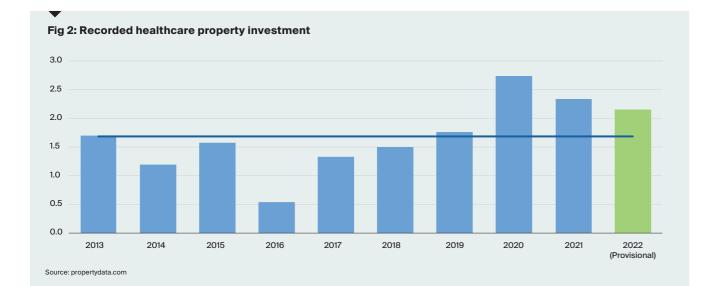




considered future proof with a vast percentage of pre-existing beds no longer considered wholly fit for purpose due to the lack of features, such as full wet room inclusion. Therefore the delivery of further beds in any capacity will be a welcome addition to both pure availability and the quality of overall stock moving forward.

### **Staff costs**

As with previous years, our 2022 Care Homes Trading Performance Survey presented a growth in wages of both carers and nurses. In accordance, the average hourly pay for nurses increased by 4.1% to £18.10 and by 5.2% (£9.71) for carers, in comparison to 2022. Despite significant increases, these rates still lag behind the 6.6% increase in the National Living Wage (currently at £9.50 per hour) that is due to rise further to £10.42 by April 2023. As sectors such as retail and hospitality continue on their own respective recovery



journeys, the healthcare sector must remain attractive to staff especially at the more fluid healthcare assistant, carer and ancillary staff levels.

Agency use across staff costs grew to 9.6% in 2022. Despite this jump, it is important to consider the outlier of previously reduced agency use in follow up to the pandemic (more in line to levels we are used to seeing).

### **Forward view**

A key concern to the sector is the extent to which operators can absorb rising costs and subsequently pass onto residents via fee increases. Where we have arguably hit a ceiling in annual percentage increases, investors will continue to monitor this during underwriting and as these changes filter into operator trading.

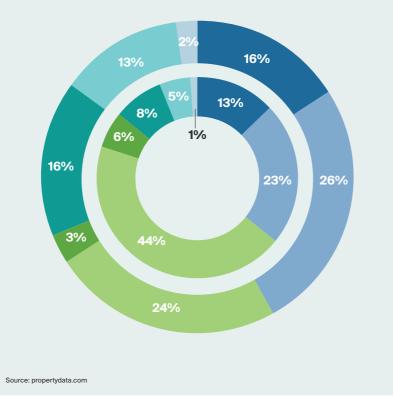
Rising rates and a higher cost of debt may lead to a shift in the composition of capital for private equity capital to emerge more than previous years. The two key factors include a need for such funds to deploy committed capital to be more active on

### Fig 3: Healthcare property transactions by buyer type

Private property co. REITs & listed Overseas Institutional Occupier Undisclosed Private investor

O Last 5 years O 2021

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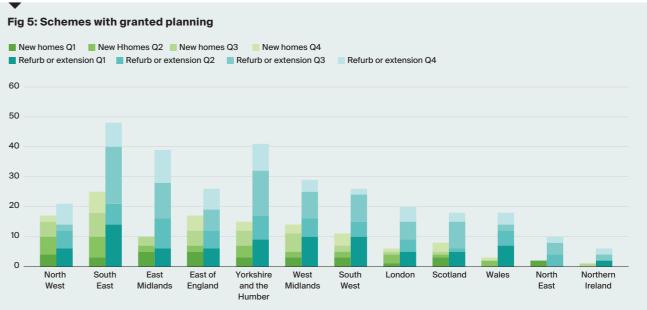
**Rising rates and thus** a higher cost of debt may lead to a shift in the composition of capital whilst private equity capital may emerge more than previous years.

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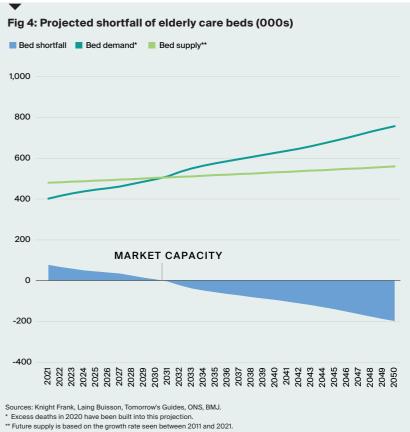
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the debt side as opposed to pure real estate plays. Secondly, investors that historically utilised gearing may become more cautious in their deployment.

We will no doubt continue to see interest in the sector due to its ESG credentials whilst investors chase more than conventional returns.



Source: Knight Frank



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## HEALTHCARE PROPERTY MARKET STRUCTURE

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As a sector, Healthcare encompasses several subsectors spanning a range of acuity levels. From more conventional settings such as elderly care and residential settings to elderly and residential care, including nurseries and special educational needs (SEN).

Broad in its coverage, the case for investment remains consistent across the various subsectors. Firstly, the emergence of a global pandemic highlighted not only the robustness of healthcare as an asset class but also its genuine significance as a sector. Government intervention, nationwide appreciation of the NHS and a backlog of admissions further leveraged ever-steady demand. As private equity, REITS and institutional investors continue to chase the strong, long income generated, there is growing interest in healthcare's capabilities to aid ESG investing strategies.

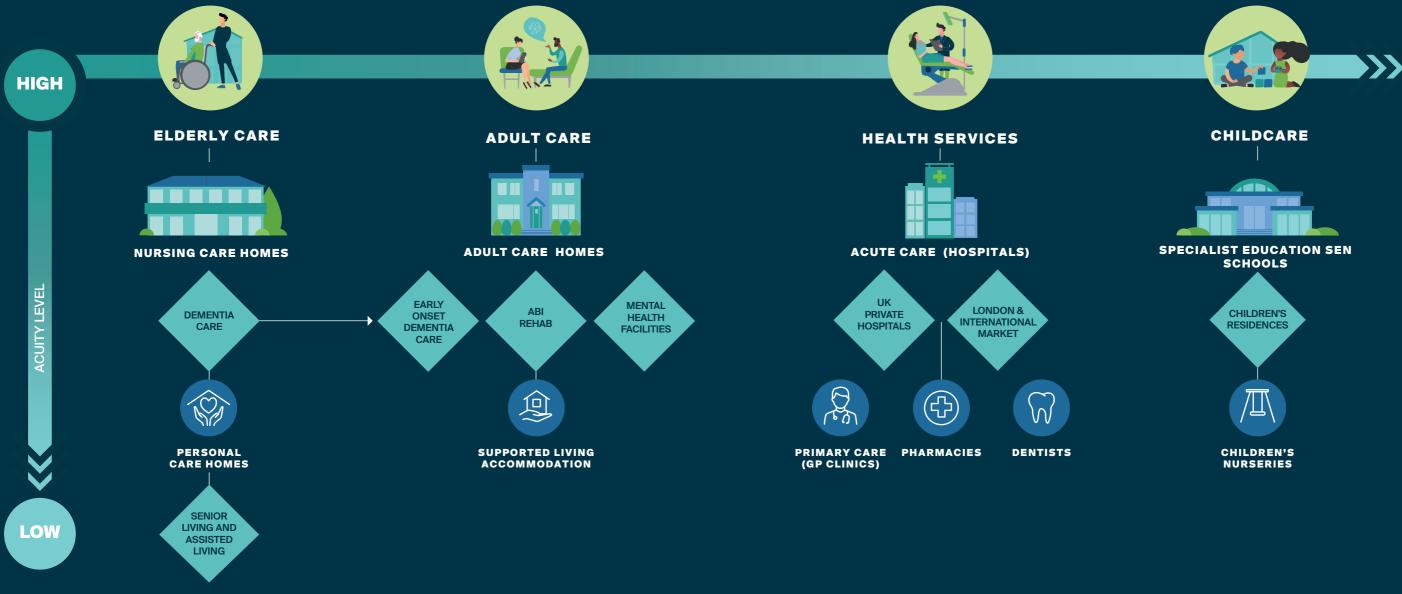
Figure 2 below presents a visual representation of the market's broadness, including any relevant overlaps respective to acuity levels.

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The emergence of a global pandemic highlighted not only the robustness of healthcare as an asset class but also its genuine importance as a sector.

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## ELDERLY CARE

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18.8 million by 2050 a predicted under supply suggests investors can feel confident in the demand for both the real estate and operational businesses.

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Ranging acuity levels in this space has resulted in elderly care homes that are either nursing or personal care focused, both with the capability to support residents in need of dementia care.

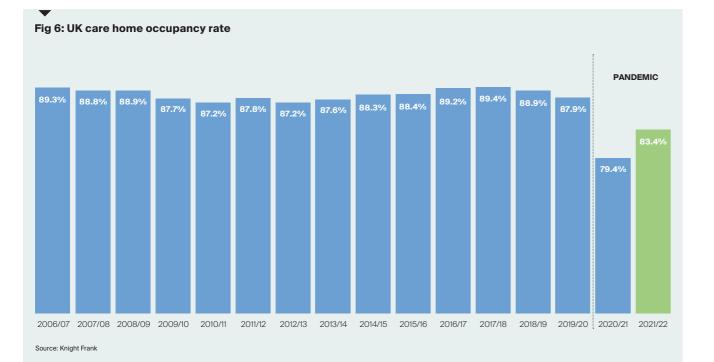
With 480,072 beds across 12,034 homes in supply currently, elderly care continues to attract investors in search of an asset class with timeless demand. With the UK's over -65s population set to reach 15.3 million by 2030 and 18.8 million by 2050, a predicted under supply suggests investors can feel confident in the demand for both real estate and operational businesses.

Figure 6 from the Knight Frank Care Homes Trading Performance Survey 2022 demonstrate the continued recovery of operator occupancies from their pandemic lows, currently trending around 85% with a number of operators reporting occupancies at 90%.

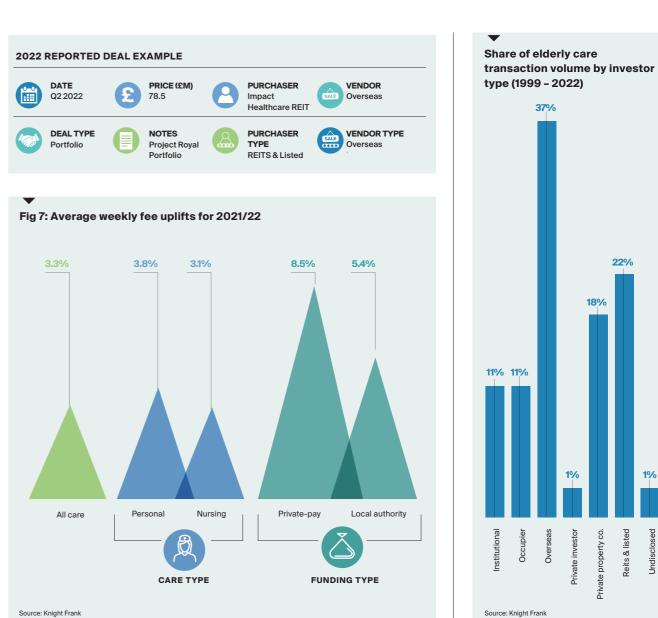
All care fees are up 3.3% on the year with private pay homes achieving around 8.5% fee growth as shown in Figure 7.

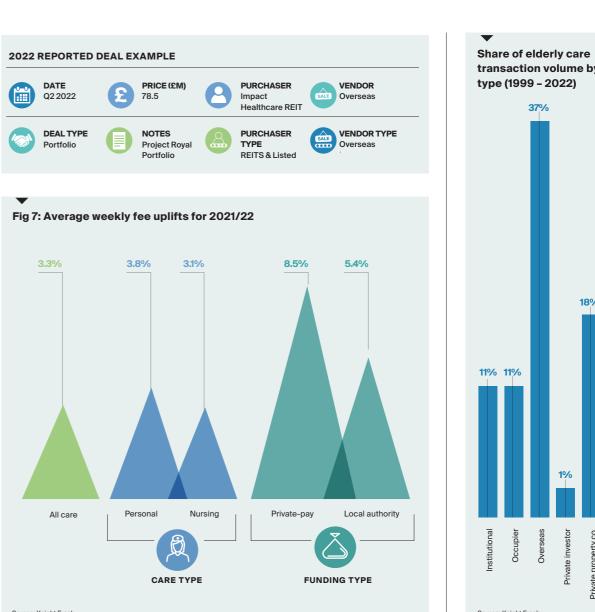
### TABLE 1:

ELDERLY CARE	NIY%
Prime	4.25 - 4.5
Prime (SPV)	5.5
Secondary	5.5 - 6
Tertiary	7-7.6



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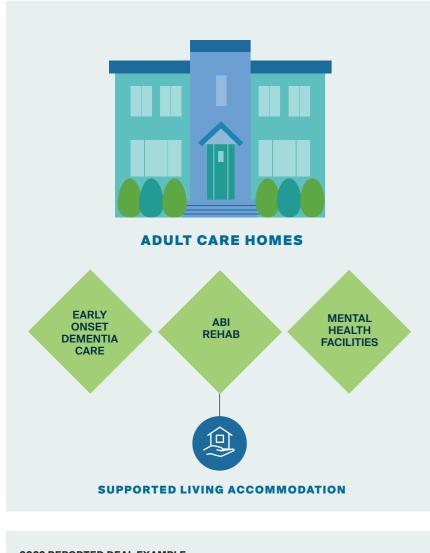


Source: Knight Frank

# With the UK's over -65s population set to reach 15.3 million by 2030 and

22%



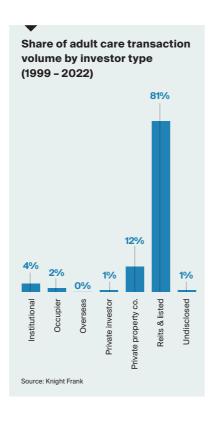


2022 REPORTED DEAL EXAMPLE **DATE** Q4 2022 PRICE (£M) PURCHASER VENDOR £ Care Tech Holdings PLC 200 **Civitas Social** Housina PURCHASER TYPE REITS & Listed DEAL TYPE NOTES VENDOR TYPE SALE Portfolic UK Care Homes Occup

Adult care focuses on the delivery of services including but not limited to, Learning Disability, Mental Health and acquired brain injury (ABI) to those of working age (currently 18-64). As a subsector it is heavily lead by independent operators who account for over 90% of the market.

### TABLE 2:





### **RESIDENTIAL CARE**



• Users receive full-time care in a residential facility, delivered by nurses or qualified carers. • Care homes are typically around 10 beds but can be more or less depending on the speciality of care provided. • Care homes are subject to registration under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. • The local authority pays the full cost of care.



### SUPPORTED LIVING

• Users occupy supported living accommodation, with rental payments supplemented by housing benefit.

- Supported living accommodation is not subject to registration under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.
- Support/care services are provided through separate contracts, registered to deliver homecare.
  - The local authority only pays for the social care element.



• Users are assigned a personal budget with the freedom to allocate funds on residential or non-residential care. • Users will typically spend this money on supported living or homecare.

### **NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE**



### HOMECARE

• User receives care in their own home or privately rented accommodation.

### **DIRECT PAYMENTS**



## HEALTH SERVICES

Health services as a subsector focuses foremost on hospitals at the higher end of the acuity scale, with lower acuity services such as GPs, pharmacies and dental practices thereafter.

The pandemic saw a growth in the remote consultancy-based service provision, predominately as a response to infection control. In addition, GPs demonstrated a shift towards telephone consultations as a first line of contact with patients whilst the emergence of digital pharmacies shows continued growth.

Despite tighter yields than other areas of healthcare, primary care facilities continue to attract the interest of key players in the space, such as Primary Health Properties and Assura.

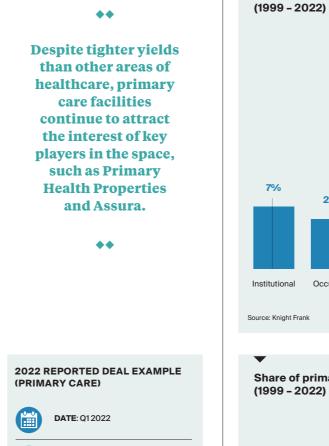
### TABLE 3:

PRIVATE HOSPITALS	NIY%
Prime	4.5
TABLE 4:	
TABLE 4: PRIMARY CARE	NIY%



**ACUTE CARE (HOSPITALS)** 





£

SALE

PRICE (£M): 11.5

DEAL TYPE: Single asset

NOTES: Derriford Care Centre

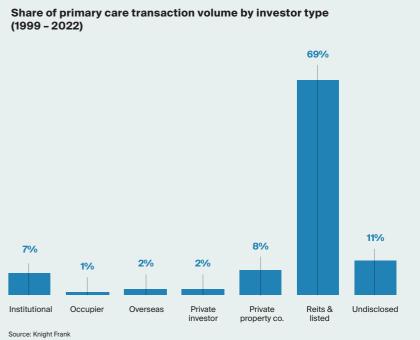
PURCHASER: PJ Livesey

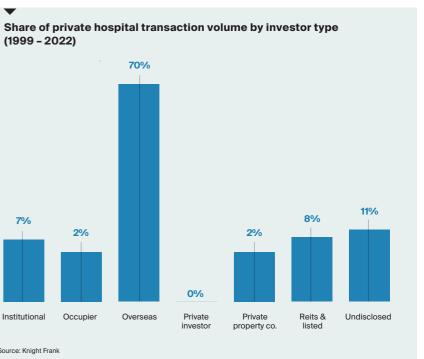
Private Property Company

VENDOR TYPE: Occupier

VENDOR: Sisters of Notre Dame

PURCHASER TYPE:





## CHILDCARE



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) SCHOOLS



Special Educational Needs (SEN) relates to the provision of services to pupils with high learning needs. This is likely to be structured into smaller groups than that of standard schools. For-profit providers account for circa 75% of total independent school places, whilst college places are dominated by not-for-profit providers.

Special Educational Needs demand is driven by the growing number of young individuals identified as requiring additional educational support paired with general population growth.

Similarly, demand for nursery care continues to strengthen due to the growth in the general population. The sector continues to see interest in both the smaller independents and larger group operators from private equity capital.

TABLE 5:

CHILDCARE (NURSERIES)	NIY%
Prime	4.5 - 5
Secondary	5.75 - 6.5
Tertiary	7+

## Over 150,000 pupils in schools focused on special educational needs Over



pendent

Share of childcare transaction volume by investor type (1999 - 2022)

 7%
 4%

 Institutional
 Occupier
 0%

 Overseas
 Private investor

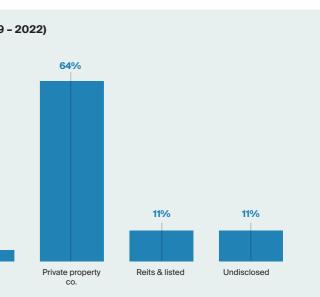
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### Special Educational Needs demand is driven by the growing number of young individuals identified as requiring additional educational support paired with general population growth.

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in market value (\*as of 2020)



12,000,000,000

10,000,000,000

8,000,000,000

6,000,000,000

4,000,000,000

2,000,000,000

Source: Knight Frank

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## EUROPEAN SPOTLIGHT

## **KEY THEMES FROM OUR 2022** EUROPEAN HEALTHCARE REPORT



Once again, the European Union and the UK's rapidly ageing population remains a key theme



Lack of consolidation across a number of countries may present both investors and operators with significant opportunities



Nordic nations continue to emerge as a key market to watch



Key operators hold significant presence in six out of seven major markets

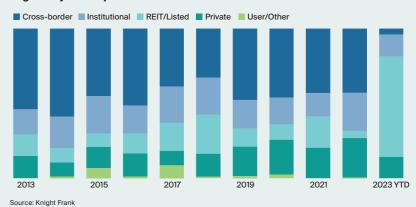
European healthcare transaction volumes for 2022 closed at circa 7bn EUR which is approximately 27% down in comparison to 2021. This closely reflects trends seen across European real estate volumes which fell by 23% in 2022.

Despite this, the composition of capital remains consistent with previous years with cross-border investment still relatively prominent. REITs also played an active role with year-to-date volumes accounting for approximately 60% of capital. It is expected the share of transactions attributed to REITs will contract as the year progresses and cross-border capital filters through.

The composition of capital remains consistent with previous years with crossborder investment still relatively prominent.

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### TABLE 5: KEY EUROPEAN TRANSACTIONS 2022

DATE	DEAL NOTES	PRICE (€)	OWNER/BUYER	SELLER				
Dec 2022	CareTech UK Care Home Portfolio 2022	231,753,910	Civitas Investment Management	CareTech Holdings				
Oct 2022	Cofinimmo DE Senior Housing Portfolio 2022	61,000,000	Cofinimmo	Undisclosed				
Oct 2022	Aedifica acquires UK Care Homes Portfolio 2022	30,641,088	Aedifica	Undisclosed				
Sep 2022	Ehpad	33,900,000	Euryale AM, Pierval Sante SCPI	Care Concern Group				
Sep 2022	LNT Group UK Care Home Portfolio 2022	52,599,535	Aedifica	LNT Group				
Sep 2022	Berkley NL Senior Housing Portfolio 2022	62,150,220	Pierval Sante SCPI, Euryale AM	Rosewood Group, Berkley Investments (LUX)				
Sep 2022	Hadrian Healthcare Yorkshire Care Home Portfolio 2022	58,524,208	Anchor Hanover Group	Hadrian Healthcare Group				
Sep 2022	Estea NL Senior Housing Portfolio 2022	58,834,863	Berkley Investments (LUX), Rosewood Group	Estea Capital (NL)				
Aug 2022	Project Channel UK 2022	66,121,308	Korian	Cinnamon Care Capital				
Aug 2022	Project Sapphire Portfolio 2022	161,000,000	Aedifica	Bartra Capital				
Jul 2022	SBB i Norden SWE Care Portfolio 2022	128,663,956	Northern Horizon	SBB i Norden				
Jul 2022	SBB SWE Nursing Care Portfolio 2022	65,169,876	Hemso	SBB i Norden				
Jun 2022	Impact Healthcare acquires UK Care Home Portfolio 2022	29,373,205	Impact Healthcare REIT	Undisclosed				
May 2022	Avery Healthcare UK Care Home Portfolio 2022	33,390,554	Rynda	Avery Healthcare				
May 2022	Project Biscayne	121,679,947	Octopus Real Estate	Hamberley Group				

Source: Real Capital Analytics



Fig 9: Buyer composition

## **OUR VIEW FOR 2023**



ESG / social impact will remain a top priority and a growing area across the healthcare sector



Despite the current climate presenting uncertainty, there will be great opportunity for savvy investors and operators with significant cash piles or those less reliant on debt (in respect to the origin of their capital).



the return of private equity and the need to deploy committed capital.



Inflationary pressures, such as food and energy costs remain a key concern for operators as they manage bottom lines and the amount that can be passed onto consumers approaching capacity.



The upgrading, refurbishment or repurposing of standing assets i.e. older, smaller and less fit-for-purpose buildings, may present viable value strategies for operators and investors across the sector.



Despite clear headwinds, the underlying drivers for healthcare will support demand and performance. As in

Debt and financing may become more creative and present in a number of different forms in line with

previous times of uncertainty, the sector's resilience will transpire in the coming year.



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Knight Frank's Healthcare team annually advises on in excess of £12bn of healthcare assets and act for the vast majority of the UK's major operators, funds, investors and lenders in the sector.

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- · Specialist adult care homes
- Independent hospitals
- Acute hospitals
- GP surgeries
- Dentists and pharmacies
- · Schools and day nurseries • Supported living and
- retirement villages · Development sites

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- Strategic consultancy
- Development consultancy
- · Sales and acquisitions
- Valuation

### Portfolio consultancy

- Research and feasibility studies
- Building consultancy and surveys
- Planning consultancy
- Lease advisory
- · Property asset management

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And a second sec Healthcare **Capital Markets** 

Healthcare Capital Markets 2022



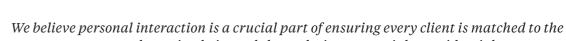
European Healthcare



Childcare & SEN Overview 2022



Care Home Trading Performance Review 2022



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## **OUR PEOPLE**

### **Agency and Development**



Julian Evans, FRICS Head of Healthcare +44 20 7861 1147 julian.evans@knightfrank.com



Nick Kempster, MRICS Partner, Agency +44 20 7861 5265 nick.kempster@knightfrank.com



Joe Munro, MRICS Senior Surveyor, Agency +44 20 3866 7816

joe.munro@knightfrank.com



**Rory Addison, MRICS** Surveyor, Agency +44 20 7861 1063 rory.addison@knightfrank.com



Senior Agent, Agency

+44 20 3869 4748

Sara Horton

Partner, Development Consultancy +44 20 3869 4702 mandip.bhogal@knightfrank.com



**Robert Stott** Senior Analyst, Development Consultancy

+44 20 7861 1152 robert.stott@knightfrank.com



Joe Brame Senior Analyst, Development Consultancy +44 208 106 1366 joe.brame@knightfrank.com

### Agency and Development Cont.





Megan Wright Business Support Coordinator +44 20 3866 8002

megan.wright@knightfrank.com

### **Corporate Consultancy**

Andrew Sage, MRICS

andrew.sage@knightfrank.com

kodie.brook@knightfrank.com

Associate +44 20 7861 5013

Kodie Brook

+44 20 3866 8049

Graduate



Danielle O'Connor, MRICS Associate +44 20 7861 5394 danielle.oconnor@knightfrank.com





**Jake Pass** Graduate +44 20 8176 9814

jake.pass@knightfrank.com



**Bianca Moore** Senior Operations Coordinator +44 20 3826 0604 bianca.moore@knightfrank.com







**Rick Tarver, MRICS** Partner +44 20 7861 1534 rick.tarver@knightfrank.com



James McKelvie, MRICS Partner +44 20 8176 9697 james.mckelvie@knightfrank.com



Bela Chauhan, MRICS Associate +44 20 3897 0037 bela.chauhan@knightfrank.com



Joseph Hardy, MRICS Associate +44 20 3897 0018 joseph.hardy@knightfrank.com



Georgia Dunlop Graduate +44 20 3540 0037 georgia.dunlop@knightfrank.com



**Genevieve Lewis** Business Support Coordinator +44 20 7861 1164

genevieve.lewis@knightfrank.com

22



### Research

**Ryan Richards** Senior Analyst +44 20 3869 4575 ryan.richards@knightfrank.com

### **Senior Living**



Tom Scaife, MRICS Head of Senior Living +44 20 7861 5429 tom.scaife@knightfrank.com

### **Building Consultancy**



**Charles Ingram-Evans, MRICS** Head of Project & Building Consultancy +44 20 3826 0688 charles.ingramevans@knightfrank.com

### **Debt Advisory**

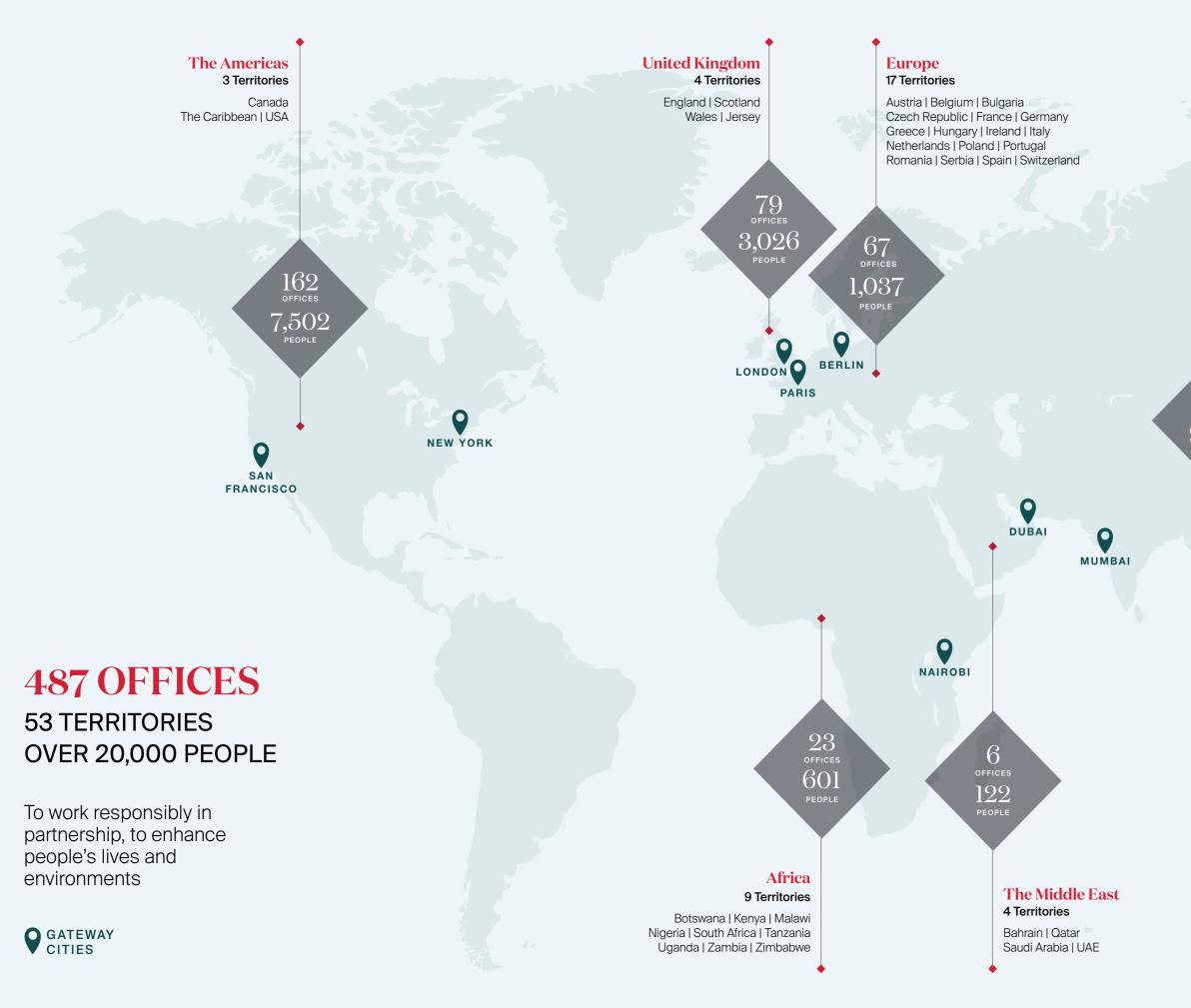


Lisa Attenborough, DipFS Head of Debt Advisory +44 20 3909 6846 lisa.attenborough@knightfrankfinance.com

### **Institutional Consultancy**



Emma Cleugh Head of Institutional Consultancy +44 20 7861 5427 emma.cleugh@knightfrank.com



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