

15 February 2016

**Price:** 105.75p

**Estimated NAV 31 Dec 2016:** 92.00p

**Market Cap:** £469m

**Premium:** 14.9%

**Yield:** 4.9%

**Ticker:** PHP LN

**Website:** [www.phpgroup.co.uk](http://www.phpgroup.co.uk)

(Current share price(s) timed at 4:30pm on 12 Feb 16)

(NAV as at 31 Dec 16)

#### Research

##### Colette Ord

+44 (0)20 7260 1290

c.ord@numis.com

Charles Cade

+44 (0)20 7260 1327

c.cade@numis.com

Ewan Lovett-Turner

+44 (0)20 7260 1254

e.lovett-turner@numis.com

Sam Murphy

+44 (0)20 7260 1232

s.murphy@numis.com

#### Sales

##### Chris Gook

+44 (0)20 7260 1378

c.gook@numis.com

##### Tod Davis

+44 (0)20 7260 1381

t.davis@numis.com

##### David Luck

+44 (0)20 7260 1301

d.luck@numis.com

##### Katherine Miller

+44 (0)20 7260 1380

k.miller@numis.com

##### James Glass

+44 (0)20 7260 1369

j.glass@numis.com

#### Website

[www.numis.com/funds](http://www.numis.com/funds)

This research was prepared and approved by

##### Numis Securities Limited

The London Stock Exchange Building  
10 Paternoster Square  
London EC4M 7LT

+44 (0)20 7260 1000

mail@numis.com

[www.numis.com](http://www.numis.com)

Registered No 02285918. Authorised and Regulated by The Financial Conduct Authority. A Member of the London Stock Exchange

## Primary Health Properties

Full Year Results

### Healthy Growing Income Stream

In 2015, Primary Health Properties (PHP) delivered strong growth in all key metrics. Management action to increase the rent roll and reduce operating and finance costs, culminated in a return to full dividend cover in H2. In addition, EPRA NAV rose 10% over the year, boosted by a £39.8m revaluation surplus. Combined with 5.0p of dividends paid, this resulted in an EPRA NAV total return of 16.3% in 2015. This compares favourably to our high income property peer group which delivered NAV total returns of 14.8% on average. Looking forward, we believe that PHP is well-placed in a niche and growing real estate sector which continues to see structural demand and positive investment market dynamics, underpinning valuations and supporting a fully covered yield of 4.9%, now paid quarterly.

- **Low cost business model:** PHP is an externally managed REIT with a 20-year track record of investing in primary care premises. The company operates with a simple, scalable, relatively low cost business model (EPRA Cost ratio of 11.5%). It does not develop assets itself, but partners with a number of specialist developers in the sector, committing to fund new assets on a pre-let basis and acquire them once they are constructed. It also invests in completed, let properties acquired from a range of investors.
- **Niche and growing real estate sector:** PHP remains one of the few ways to access the growing primary health property market, offering exposure to long leases backed by a government covenant. PHP's portfolio is the largest by value in the listed universe, comprising 273 properties. However, this represents just 5% of the addressable market. The manager is seeing opportunities in both the UK and Ireland and highlights a near-term pipeline of £130m. Importantly, there remains comfortable headroom between acquisition yields and the cost of funding, which bodes well for the revenue account.
- **Defensive property assets:** Since 2007, average investment yields on primary health assets have remained in a relatively tight range of 5.0–6.25% depending on whether the asset is already income producing or under construction. We believe this reflects the lower volatility of primary health assets through the cycle. As demonstrated by All Property yields rising (values falling) by c.330bps from a peak in June 2007 of 4.57% (currently 5.0% in Dec 15) to reach a trough in June 2009 of 7.91%. In comparison, PHP's portfolio saw a more modest 125bps yield adjustment.
- **Attractive return profile:** Our estimates highlight that PHP is well placed to deliver attractive NAV total returns in 2016 and 2017 of 10.7% and 9.0%, respectively. This compares favourably to Investment Property Forum (IPF) consensus forecasts for All Property total returns of 9.3% and 5.4% in the same period. Having returned to full dividend cover, we estimate that PHP can continue to grow distributions (now paid quarterly) by c.2.5% in both 2016 and 2017 and remain fully covered with a prospective yield of 4.9% rising to 5.0%.

For FCA purposes this marketing communication has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of such research. Important disclosures are on pages 25 to 26 relating to Numis Securities Limited, analyst certification, other requirements which restrict dealing ahead, relevant investment banking relationships, potential conflicts of interest and additional disclosures. See [www.numis.com/x/regulatory.html](http://www.numis.com/x/regulatory.html) for other disclosures.

## Contents

Overview	3
Final Results Summary	4
PHP Property Performance	5
PHP Share Price Performance	7
PHP Rating in Context	8
Market Backdrop	10
• Tightly Controlled Supply	11
• Acquisitions and Pipeline	11
• Ireland	12
• Funding Growth	13
Balance Sheet Flexibility	13
Impressive dividend growth record	17
Financial Summary	18
Appendix	20
• PHP Portfolio Overview	20
• Regular Upward-Only Rent Reviews	20
• Strong Tenant Covenant	21
Peer Group Summary	22
• Trading Statistics	24

## Overview

### 20-year track record

Primary Health Properties is an externally-managed REIT with a 20 year track record of investing in primary care premises. The company first listed on AIM in 1996, moving to the Main Market of the London SE in 1998, and became the UK's first dedicated healthcare REIT in 2007. The company specialises in the ownership of freeholds or long leasehold interests in purpose-built primary healthcare facilities. The majority of these are GP surgeries, with other properties let to NHS organisations, pharmacies and dentists.

### Business model

PHP operates with a simple, relatively low cost business model. It does not develop assets itself, but partners with a number of specialist developers in the sector. It commits to fund new assets, on a pre-let basis, and acquires them once constructed. It also invests in completed let properties acquired from a range of investors, provided the underlying occupational leases and other property fundamentals meet its investment criteria.

Acquisitions are financed with a mix of equity and debt, the proportions of which are kept under regular review to optimise risk-adjusted returns to shareholders over the long term. Debt facilities are varied, and the company has accessed both traditional bank lenders and debt capital markets in the form of unsecured retail and convertible bonds and secured corporate bonds. Facilities are well spread with a range of providers and maturities.

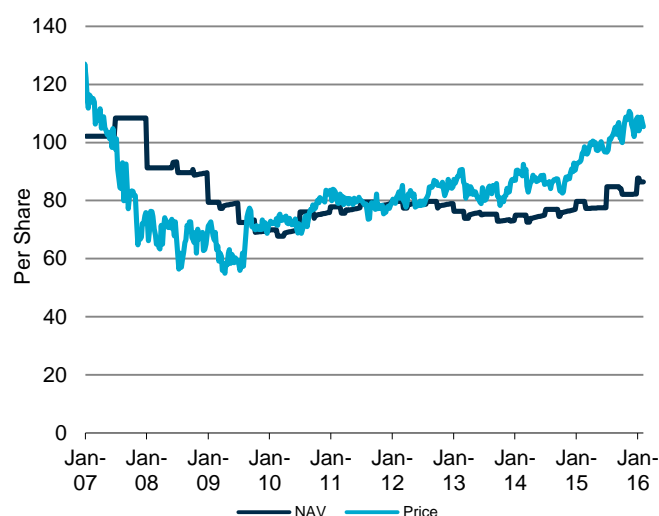
### Attractive Asset Backed Yield

PHP remains one of the few ways to access the primary health property market, offering exposure to long leases backed by a government covenant. The market continues, rightly in our view, to assign a premium rating to PHP's shares, reflecting the quality of the income stream (WAULT 14.7 years) and defensive nature of the asset base. We would expect this to remain the case, given the favourable market dynamics, flexible balance sheet and attractive dividend yield on offer of 4.8%.

### Simple business model with scope to increase market share

### Exposure to long leases backed by government covenant

Figure 1: PHP 10-Year Absolute Price & NAV Performance



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

Figure 2: PHP 10-Year Discount History



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

## Final Results Summary

### Strong 2015 performance

In the 12 months to 31 December 2015, PHP delivered strong growth in all key metrics. Management action to grow the rent roll, reduce operating and finance costs, combined with positive momentum in property valuations, resulted in a 16.3% EPRA NAV total return in 2015, and a return to full dividend cover in H2.

### 19.2% increase in EPRA earnings

### Earnings boosted by acquisitions and tight cost control

Net rental income rose 5.1% in the period to £62.3m, reflecting the benefit of acquisitions and developments completed, as well as 0.9% rental growth achieved on reviews. Earnings increased by 19.2% to £21.7m (4.9p), reflecting tight control of admin costs and active management of the debt and hedging portfolio. Fees paid to the manager averaged 0.50% of gross assets in the period, a 9% reduction over the prior year, benefitting from changes to the fee structure in 2014. The EPRA cost ratio was 11.5%, the lowest in the Real Estate sector by a comfortable margin. The tiered management fee means that the rate charged will reduce further from 0.325% to 0.30% on gross assets over £1.25bn.

### 19th year of DPS growth

### Return to full dividend cover

During the year, PHP paid dividends totalling 5.0p, up 2.6% (restated for a 4 for 1 share split in November). This was covered 98% by recurring cash flow. Management notes that earnings generated in H2 2015 covered the second-half dividend by 107% (up from 89% in H1). Having moved to quarterly distributions in January 2016, PHP has subsequently declared a DPS of 1.28125p payable on 26 February 2016 (ex-dividend 14 January), representing an annualised yield of 4.8%. The remaining quarterly dividends are expected to be made in May, August and November.

### Enhanced balance sheet flexibility

### 23% of drawn debt is unsecured giving balance sheet flexibility

PHP has considerably improved its balance sheet flexibility over the past 24 months. In 2014, £500m of debt was refinanced, restructured or procured, diversifying funding sources, lowering interest costs and extending the average maturity. At 31 December 2015, debt totalled £692.7m, with a weighted average maturity of 5.9 years. Net finance costs in the period were £33.7m with an average interest cost of 4.67%, 48bps lower year on year. Consolidated net LTV was 62.7%, although we note that no debt facility has an LTV covenant based on consolidated LTV. Individual debt line LTVs range from 38% to 65% and remain comfortably within covenants. Moreover, 23% of drawn debt is unsecured, giving flexibility in the event that property values fall in the future.

### 10% increase in EPRA NAV; 16.3% NAV total return

### Investor demand driving yield shift

Property values increased by 3.9% or £39.8m (8.9p) in 2015 to £1.1bn including developments, reflecting an initial yield of 5.32% (Dec 14: 5.52%). EPRA NAV rose 10% to 87.7p; basic NAV including the unrealised mark to market of the interest rate swaps was 69.5p up 11% year on year.

### Positive outlook for 2016 and beyond

### Further dividend and NAV growth expected

We believe that PHP is well placed in a niche, growing real estate sector. Occupier dynamics are firmly underpinned by both demographics and increased demand for health services. Moreover, investment market dynamics remain positive, underpinning valuations. Our estimates assume that the company is well-placed to deliver attractive NAV total returns in 2016 and 2017 of 10.7% and 9.0%, respectively. We estimate that PHP can deliver 2.5% annual dividend growth in both 2016 and 2017 and remain fully covered.

### Attractive long-term property performance

## PHP Property Performance

Whilst PHP's property total return of 9.7% was below the 13.8% return from commercial property in 2015, we believe this reflects the lower volatility of primary health assets through-the-cycle. In particular, All Property yields fell c.330bps from a peak in June 2007 of 4.57% (currently 5.0% in Dec 15) reaching a trough in June 2009 of 7.91%. This compared to a more modest 125bps move for PHP over the same period.

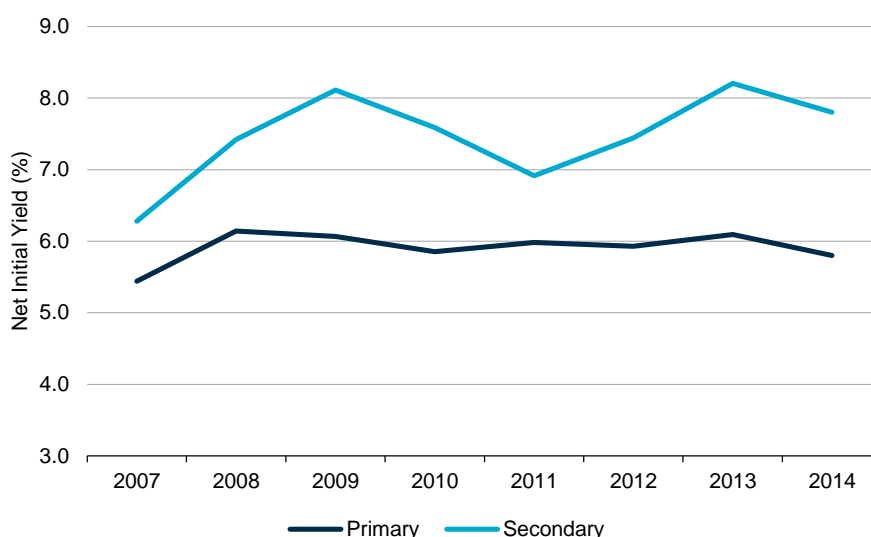
**Table 1: Total Property Return pa to 31 Dec 2015**

(%)	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
PHP	9.7	8.2	7.7
IPD All Property Index	13.8	14.6	10.8

Source: Company data/IPD

The annual IPD healthcare index for 2015 will not be published until March. This index records performance across a range of health sub-sectors, including primary care (doctors surgeries, dentists etc.) and secondary care (care homes, hospitals etc.). Since 2007, average investment yields on primary health assets have remained in a relatively tight spread of 5.0– 6.25% depending on whether the asset is already income producing or under construction. However, we are aware of keener pricing, sub-5%, for certain larger assets that have attracted institutional investors looking for long-term RPI linked yield.

**Figure 3: Primary Healthcare & Secondary Healthcare Net Initial Yields**

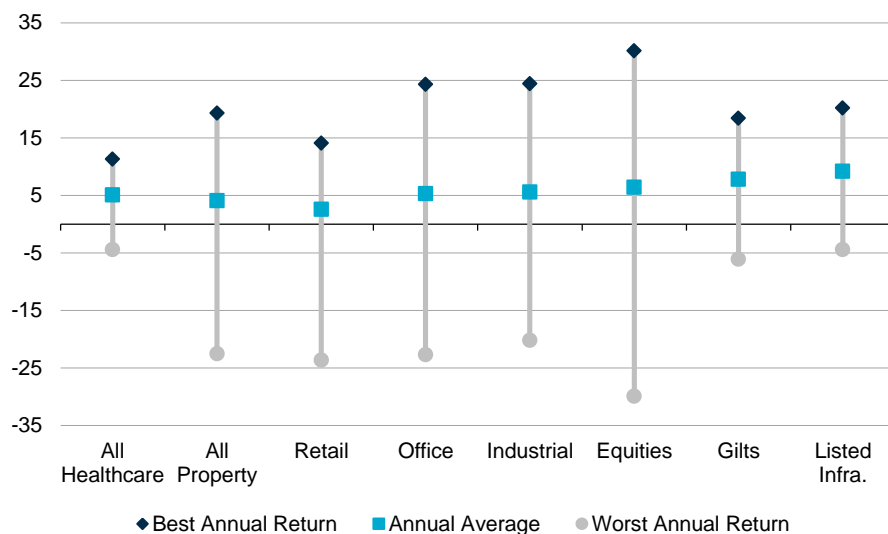


Source: Numis Securities Research/IPD

### Low volatility of asset values vs other property sectors

The lower volatility of primary health assets is further demonstrated in the following chart, which illustrates the best and worst annual return as well as the annual average compared with other property sectors and yielding asset classes.

Figure 4: Total Returns by Asset Class 2007–14 inclusive



\*\* Listed Infra based on NAV total return  
Source: IPD/Datastream/Numis Securities Research

### High Degree of Income Visibility

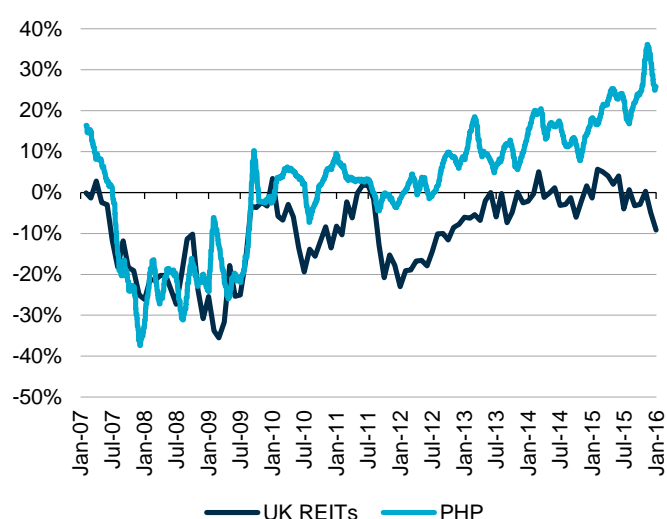
A key driver of PHP's solid long-term property performance is the high degree of income visibility, strong covenants and generally matching supply and demand of assets. As at 31 December 2015, PHP was contracted to receive minimum lease payments of £899m over the next 15 or more years from a strong tenant covenant (predominantly NHS).

## PHP Share Price Performance

PHP's attractive income characteristics have translated favourably to share price performance. Whilst the discount ballooned out to almost 40% at the end of 2007, in line with the general REIT sector, the shares have been trading at a healthy premium to NAV in more recent years. A key driver of this has been a greater understanding of the primary health property market drivers, and the quality of income stream that it produces.

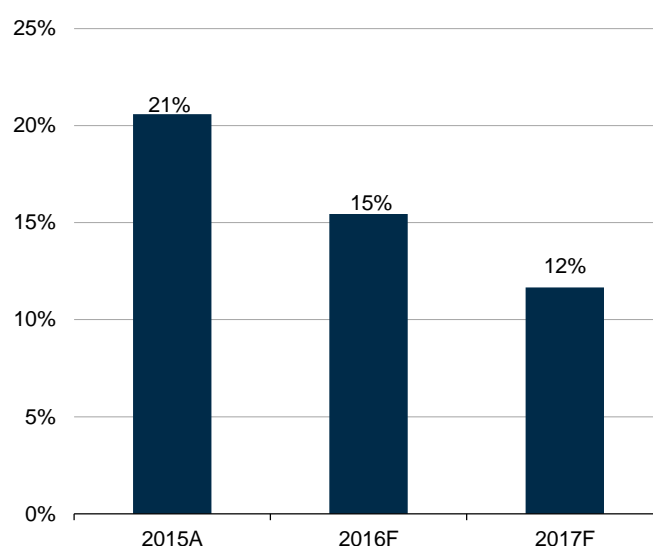
PHP shares are currently trading on a 21% premium to the December 15 EPRA NAV in line with the weighted average premium for the listed primary healthcare peer group. **The premium falls to 15% based on our 31 December 2016 EPRA NAV estimate of 91.6p and 12% based on our 31 December 2017 EPRA NAV of 94.7p.**

Figure 5: PHP Discount/Premium vs UK REITs



Source: Datastream/Numis Securities Research

Figure 6: PHP Implied premium to NAV estimates



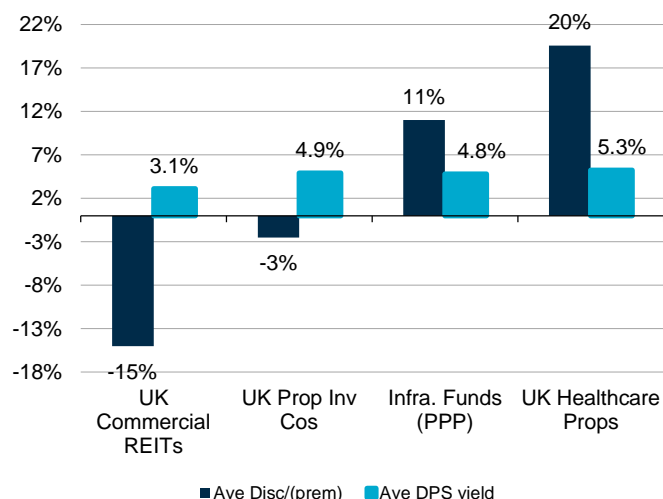
Source: Numis Securities Research

## PHP Rating in Context

### Premium rating for high quality income plays

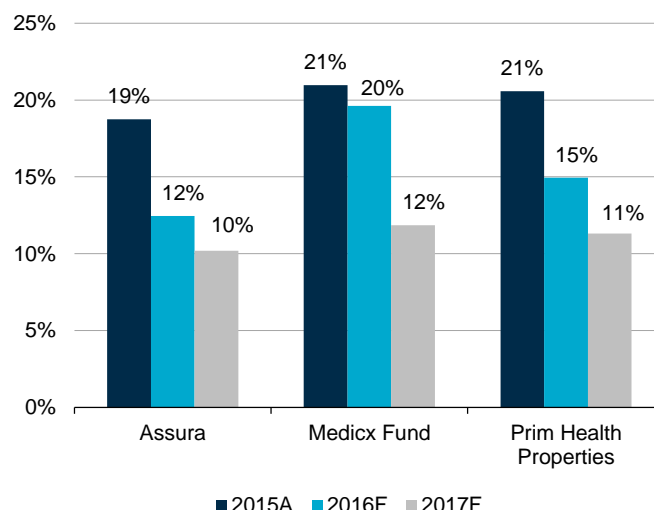
As the following charts suggest, the market continues to assign a premium to the sector primary health sector given the strong income characteristics and relatively defensive asset base. In particular where there is a government covenant such as listed infrastructure or primary health. We expect this to remain the case in the current low interest rate environment.

Figure 7: Valuations in Context



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

Figure 8: Primary Health Peers - Prem to EPRA NAV



Assura & Medicx consensus forecasts from Factset  
Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

### Greater NAV growth potential versus PPP funds

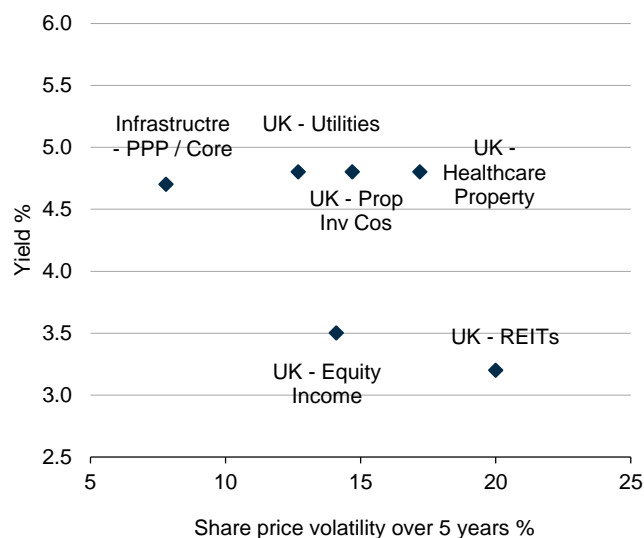
Compared with listed Infrastructure funds, the wider premium for healthcare property can generally be justified by an expectation of greater near-term NAV growth, as well as asset ownership (PPP funds invest in finite life concessions where the asset reverts to government ownership at the end of the contract). In our view, the higher premium versus commercial property can be justified by the lower volatility of asset values and relatively high dividend yields on offer.

### Lower correlation with general equities

It is also interesting to note that over a five-year period, PHP's share price has shown lower correlation with the All Share compared with other listed property plays. This is particularly stark compared with commercial REITs that have much higher correlation to general equities compared with UK high income property investment fund peers and PHP. We believe this a key attraction for investors looking for income diversification from a relatively low volatility asset base.

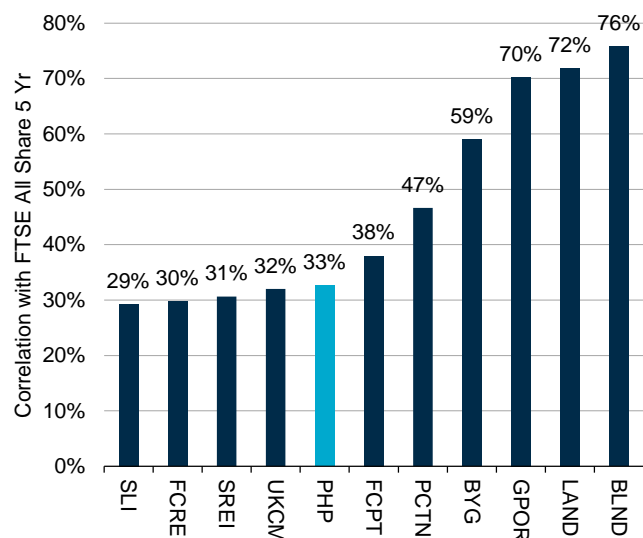


Figure 9: 5-Year share price volatility &amp; Yield



Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

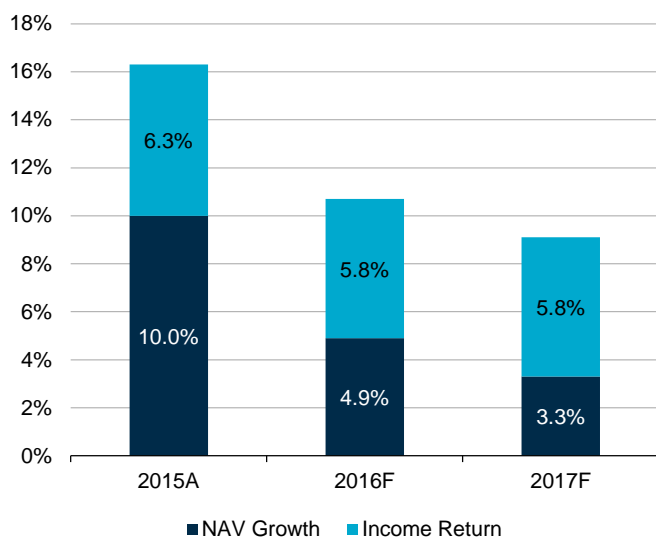
Figure 10: Share Price Correlation with FTSE All Share – 5yrs



Source: Numis Securities Research/Datastream

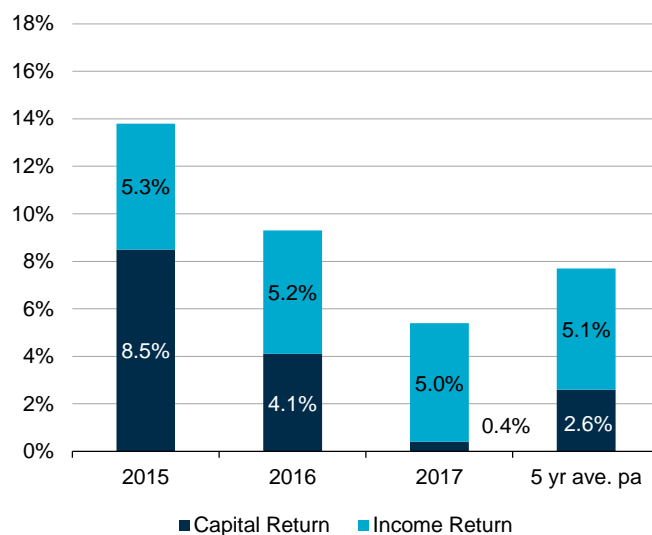
The following charts illustrate our NAV total return expectations for PHP. We believe these compare favourably with total return forecasts for general commercial property, as published by the Investment Property Forum (IPF). Contributors to IPF forecasts include a mix of property advisors and fund managers.

Figure 11: PHP NAV Total Return Expectations



Source: Numis Securities Research

Figure 12: IPF Consensus Total Return - All Property Est.



Source: IPF November 2015 Forecast

## Market Backdrop

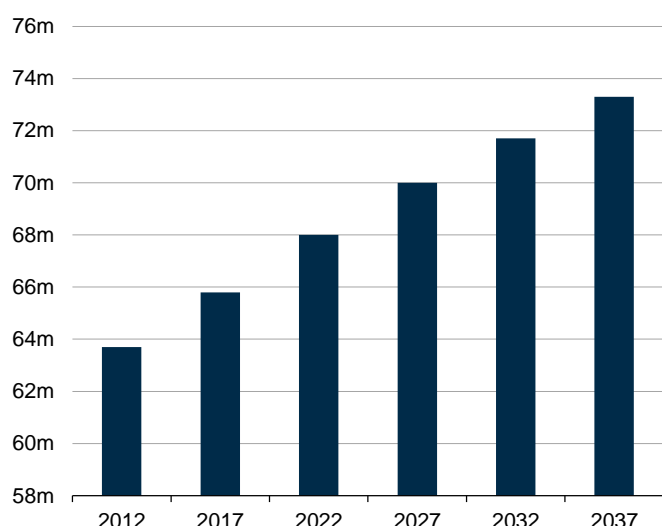
In its research report entitled *Specialist Property: The Core Markets*, Knight Frank highlights three key differences between specialist and traditional property assets (Retail, Industrial & Offices) as follows:

- Lease duration
- Risk profile and
- Structure of rental uplifts.

In our view, the primary health property market looks attractive on all three counts. Leases have significantly longer duration and feature more regular, effectively upwards-only rent reviews, when compared with general commercial leases. In addition, tenants have a low risk profile given the dominant government covenant.

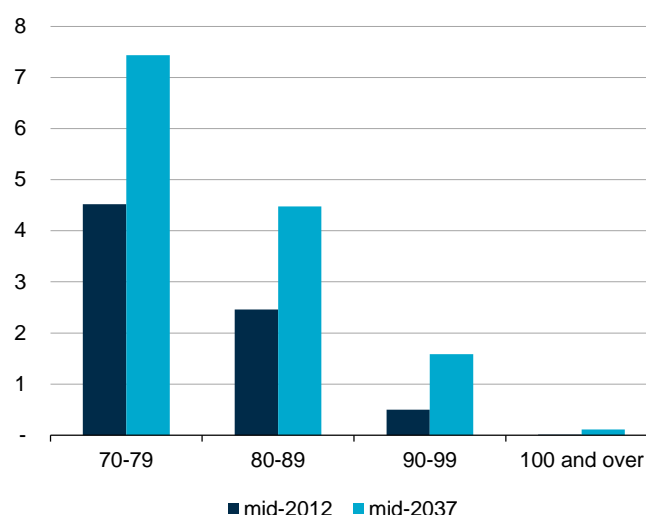
Moreover, we believe the sector offers some of the most attractive supply and demand dynamics, driven by structural rather than cyclical changes. Most notably, there is a growing demand for primary healthcare services as the UK population ages the incidence of chronic disease increases.

Figure 13: UK Population growth



Source: ONS/Numis Securities Research

Figure 14: Ageing Population Trends



Source: ONS/Numis Securities Research

**90% of PHPs rental income is derived from GP and NHS tenants**

GPs form the largest tenant group in the sector, with >60% being owner/occupiers of their own premises. According to the Nuffield Trust, 90% of all NHS contact takes place in the primary care setting with the average member of the public visiting a GP six times a year. However, many existing practices have been deemed too small or inadequate in the face of changing demographics (growing and ageing population), supporting demand for new premises. According to a survey of GPs by the British Medical Association, 70% stated their premises are too small to deliver extra/additional services, whilst 52% said that their premises had seen no investment or refurbishment in the last 10 years. Meanwhile, the UK population is expected to rise by 10% in 15 years, with the percentage of people aged 70 or more expected to rise by 45%.

## Tightly Controlled Supply

Against a backdrop of growing demand, supply remains constrained. The primary care premises market is controlled by the NHS in the UK and largely influenced by the HSE in the Republic of Ireland, meaning there is little or no speculative development of new facilities. Buildings are often located within residential areas which can lead to restricted alternative use potential. Against this, initial lease terms are longer than in general commercial markets, averaging more than 20 years.

In the UK, rent reviews are triggered by the landlord, typically on a three yearly, upwards-only basis. GPs receive reimbursement for rent, maintenance and insurance costs from the NHS, a practice set out in legislation. Together with leases direct to the NHS, the sector benefits from a very strong underlying rental covenant.

In Ireland, whilst there is no rental reimbursement of GP rents, the HSE makes a commitment to each primary care centre in order to create an integrated healthcare system alongside GP services. The HSE presence, representing 60-75% of rent received at a centre, will underpin the long term secure income to be received from Irish properties.

Overall, these factors combine to create a long-term, low risk income environment where over the medium-term, through a mix of indexed linked and open market reviews, rental growth has broadly tracked inflation. Whilst rental growth remains muted (ranging between 0.9-1.4%), the rate of development approvals is starting to pick up in the UK. This should see an improving trend in rental growth in the medium term. When settling rent reviews, new developments provide rental evidence for valuers.

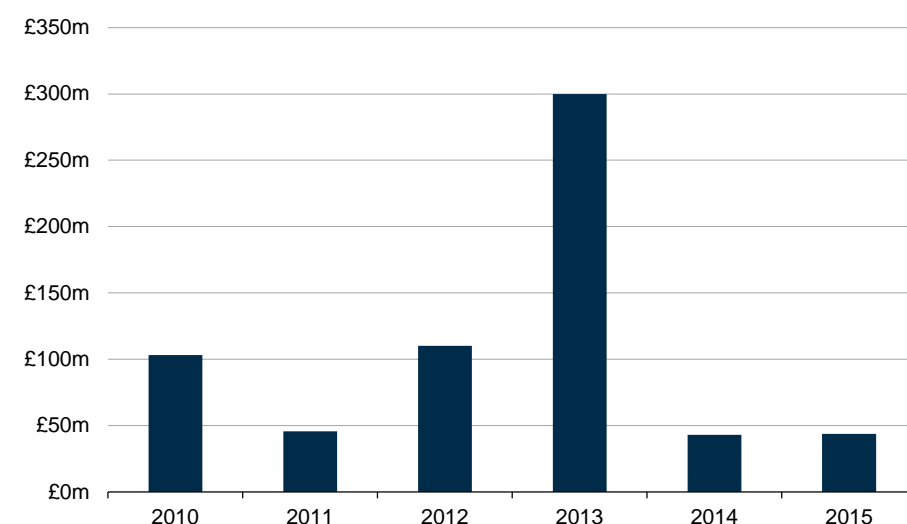
In addition, investment market dynamics remain buoyant with scope for yields to edge modestly lower, supported by rental growth (albeit lower than historic levels) and demand from investors for high quality, long-term government-backed income streams.

## Acquisitions and Pipeline

**£50m of acquisitions in a typical year**

The chart below illustrates PHP's recent acquisition profile. Management seeks to add £50-100m of new assets per annum. In 2015, PHP acquired eight properties for a combined consideration of £44m, increasing the rent roll by £2.4m. These comprised a mix of forward-funded projects that are expected to be completed in the next 12 or so months and will be let for an average term of 21 years.

**Figure 15: Acquisition profile since 2010**

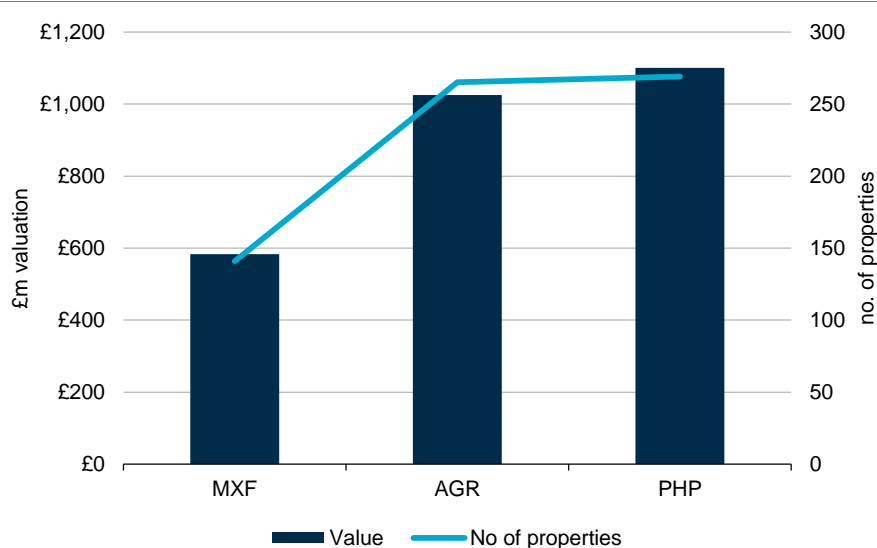


Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

The most notable transaction in the past 24 months was the acquisition of Prime in December 2013. The deal added 54 properties (valued at £233m) and £14.3m to the annual rent roll. As well as boosting dividend cover significantly, it also increased the inflation linkage of the portfolio (from 11% to 18%), enhanced the longevity of income and increased the average lot size.

Of the three listed health property peers, PHP has the largest portfolio by value, comprising 273 health centres. However, this compares with 9,800 GP practices that exist in the UK (British Medical Association). Whilst many of these would not be suitable as a result of size, quality and growth potential, we believe it indicates the further scalability of PHP's business model, providing it continues to have access to attractively priced capital.

**Figure 16: Primary Health Peer Group – Portfolio Value and No. of Properties**



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

The near term pipeline includes £28m of UK assets in solicitors hands and €14m of property in Ireland, a new market for PHP and the peer group. Transactions under offer and progressing total £70m in the UK and €40m in Ireland.

## Ireland

The Irish market has attracted interest from the London listed primary health peers more recently. This has been driven by a commitment from the department of Health in Ireland to widen access to primary care including free provision for over 70's and under 6's. This may be extended to children under 12.

PHP is seeing a growing number of opportunities in the region, and highlights the following key characteristics that are expected to complement the UK portfolio.

- Target assets include large, modern integrated primary care centres
- HSE typically represents 60-75% of income for 20-25 year lease terms
- Residual space let to GPs, pharmacy and associated healthcare users
- Five-yearly rent reviews linked to CPI (upward and downwards)
- Supportive demographics
- Higher initial yields compared with UK assets
- Supportive banking market at accretive rates.

Whilst there are clearly differences compare with the UK primary health property market, PHP is comfortable that any perceived risks can be sufficiently mitigated. Moreover, we would not expect Ireland to be a substantial percentage of the portfolio with management suggesting it may invest up to €150m over time. This would represent c.10% of the current portfolio. Medicx Fund is currently seeking shareholder approval to invest up to 20% outside of the UK.

## Funding Growth

PHP has funded its portfolio growth using a combination of equity and debt capital markets, as well as traditional bank and insurance funding. The following table summarises the most recent significant capital raise events completed by the company.

**Table 2: PHP - Recent Funding from Capital Markets**

Date	Gross Proceeds (£m)	Method
18 Sept 2009	60	Firm Placing, Placing & Open Offer issue of 26.1m shares at 230p
11 July 2012	75	5.375% Retail Bond
22 May 2013	60	Firm Placing, Placing & Open Offer issue of 19m shares at 315p
16 Dec 2013	70	Secured bond, floating rate 2025
03 Dec 2013	41	Issued 12.57m shares at 320p as part consideration for Prime Portfolio
13 May 2014	82.5	Convertible, senior unsecured 4.25% bond

Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

The last equity raise occurred in 2013 when PHP issued 19m shares at 315p (78.75p restated for the four for one share split in November 2015).

## Balance Sheet Flexibility

### Diverse range of lenders; 23% of loans unsecured

PHP has a diverse range of debt providers including traditional bank and insurance lenders, as well as a mixture of secured and unsecured bonds. This includes an unsecured convertible bond with an initial conversion price of 97.5p and semi-annual coupon of 4.25% pa until maturity in May 2019. This is expected to be redeemed at par, although the bond can be converted at any time by bondholders or from June 2017 by the company. PHP can settle entirely in shares, in cash or with a combination of both. The initial conversion price represents an 11% premium to the 31 Dec 15 NAV and a 7.8% discount to the current 105.75p share price.

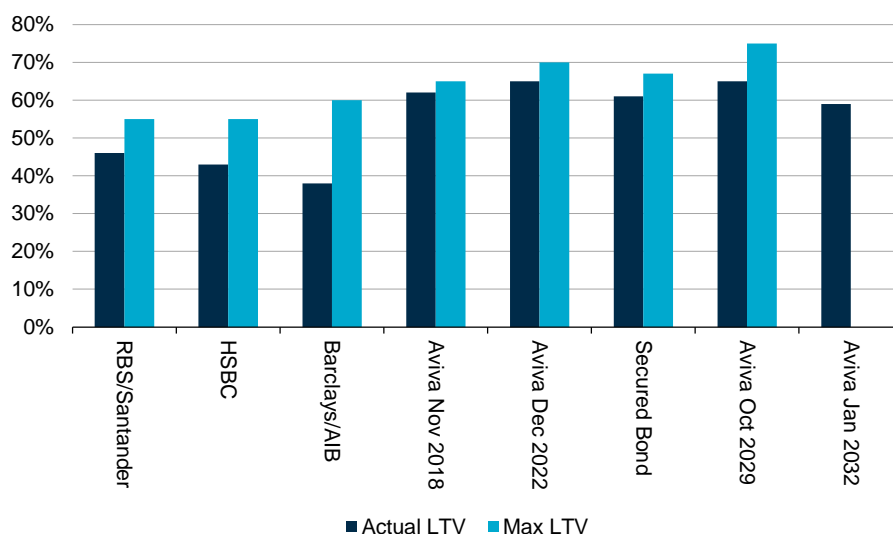
### Convertible bond in the money

As at 31 December 2015, PHP had drawn £690m out of £802.7m available under its existing debt facilities. Allowing for the cost of development projects on site at the year-end of £21.8m, PHP has £91.1m of headroom for future investment. Group level Net LTV was 62.7% at 31 December 2015, including the convertible. However, given that the convertible is currently in the money, we believe it is correct to exclude it from LTV, which reduces group level LTV to 55.8%.

### Comfortable headroom on covenants

It is also worth noting that there is no group level LTV covenant in any debt facility. Each of PHP's eight secured debt facilities has its own covenant level against which PHP is comfortably placed. LTVs on individual debt lines range from 38% to 65% and covenant levels ranging from 55% to 100% as well as strong levels of interest cover.

Figure 17: Individual LTVs vs Covenant Levels

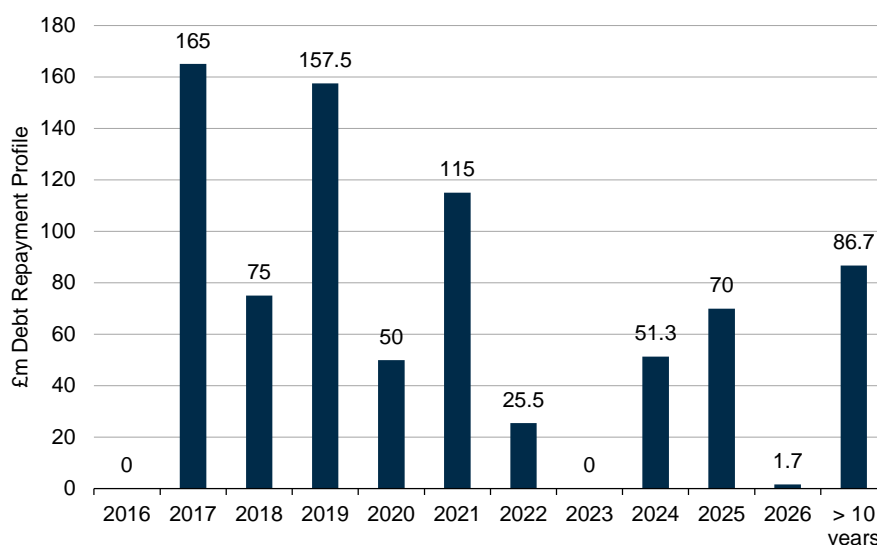


Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

### Weighted average debt maturity of 5.9 years

The weighted average maturity is currently 5.9 years, with the next refinancing event expected in 2017 when PHP will need to refinance £165m relating to its club facility. Management note that discussions are currently ongoing in this regard.

Figure 18: Maturity of Debt

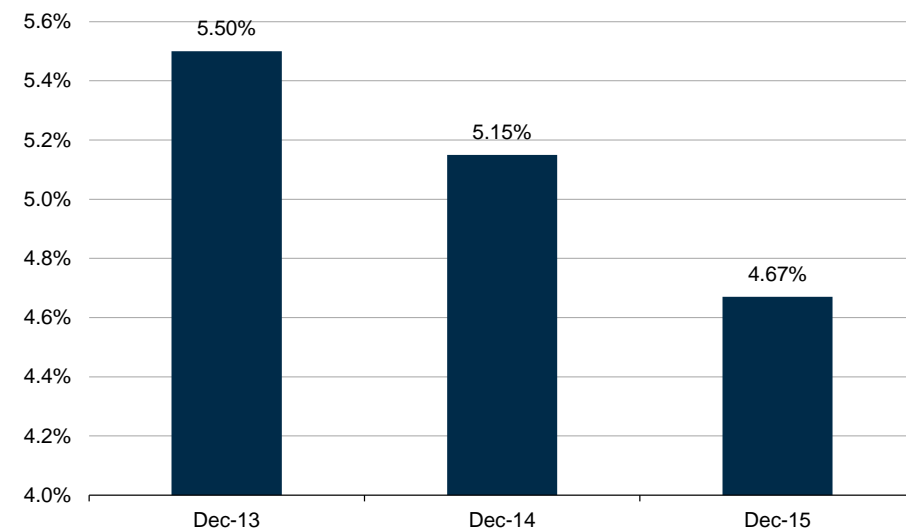


Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

### Active debt and hedge book management

Over the past 24 months, PHP has refinanced, restructured or procured c.£500m of debt. Most notably, the manager has improved balance sheet flexibility, with the addition of two unsecured bonds totalling £157.5m, representing c.23% of drawn facilities, providing a buffer in the event that property valuations fall in the future. In addition, it has also reduced the average interest rate paid in 2015 to 4.67%, down from 5.15% a year earlier. This has been driven by the addition of new lower cost facilities and also the termination of a shorter dated, relatively expensive £80m notional swap contract that was due to expire to July 2016. Whilst this crystallised a £3.2m (0.8p) break cost, it was a £250,000 discount to the inherent interest cost and reduced average debt costs in the period by 43bps.

Figure 19: Average Cost of Debt

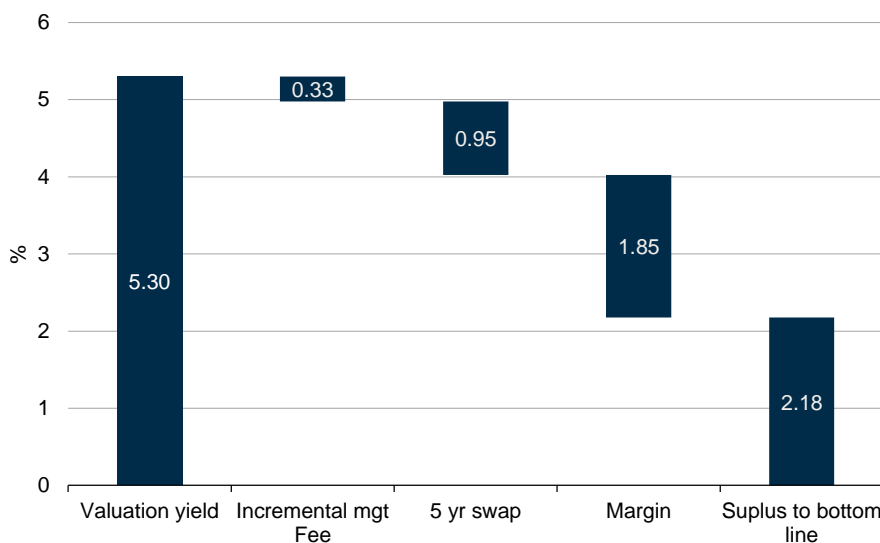


Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

### Accretive margin on new investments

Importantly, in our view, there remains a comfortable margin over the incremental cost of acquiring new assets. Purchases should therefore be earnings-accretive and underpin further growth in the dividend over time.

Figure 20: Illustrative Yield Gap on New Investments as at 31 Dec 2015

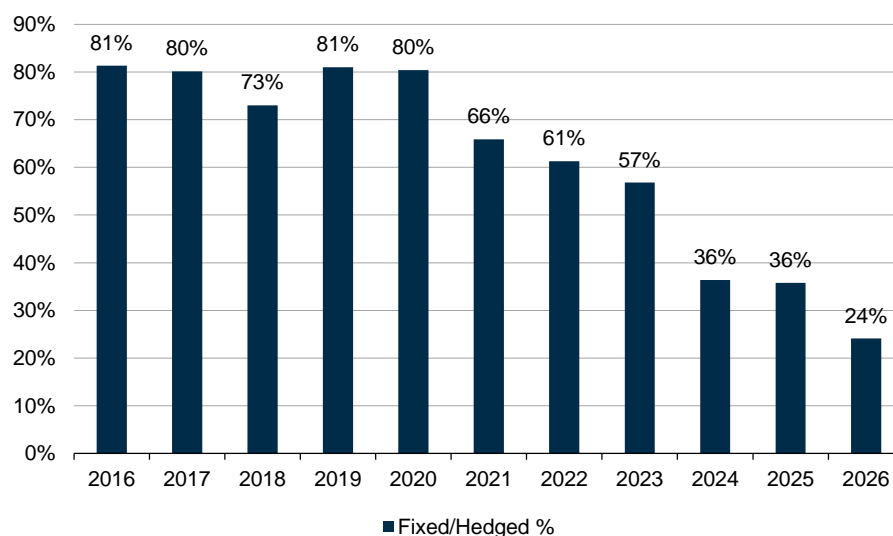


Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

### 80% of debt fixed or hedged

Given the long average lease length of the portfolio, PHP uses interest rate swaps to mitigate exposure to variable interest-rate risk. Its policy is to maintain the proportion of floating rate interest exposure at between 20-40% of total interest rate cost. Currently, c.80% of debt is fixed or hedged to 2020, with a longer term hedging profile as follows:

Figure 21: PHP Debt Hedging Profile



Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

The portfolio of interest rate swaps are with RBS, AIB, HSBC and Barclays and were put in place at various dates. As at 31 December, floating to fixed interest rate swaps with a contract value of £126m were in effect at a weighted average interest rate of 3.9%. Some of these will be replaced by forward starting swaps that will fix the interest rate on £180m of debt from H2 2016 onwards. In addition, PHP has one £15m interest rate cap at 2%. As at 31 December 2015, the mark-to-market valuation of the swap portfolio was an unrealised liability of £35.3m.

Will break swaps on an opportunistic basis only

This is an accounting adjustment which continues to be volatile in a low interest rate environment, although it does not impact the company's cash flows. In theory, the liability could crystallise if PHP were to repay the related debt or cancel its swaps. Management opportunistically repaid c.£80m of shorter-dated swaps in 2015, crystallising a break cost of £3.2m (0.8p). However, these were replaced by attractively priced forward starting swaps and generated a £250,000 pa interest cost saving, reducing the average interest cost by c.48bps in the period. We believe that management will only cancel swaps where they can see value and not on a wholesale basis.

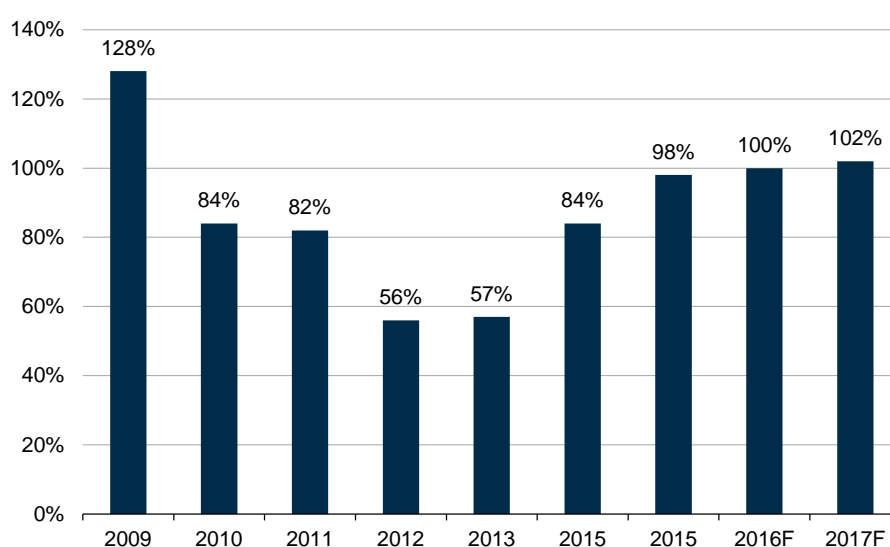


## Impressive dividend growth record

### 19 years of dividend growth

Given the visibility of its income, and tight control on costs, PHP has built an impressive track record of growing dividends over the past 19 years. Historically, the company has maintained a high level of dividend cover from recurring cash flows. However, rising debt costs in 2012 (refinance of bi-laterals and issue of retail bond) resulted in a temporary fall in dividend cover below historic levels. Through a combination of acquisitions, rental growth and management action to reduce operating and debt costs, PHP returned to a fully covered dividend position in H2 2015. Our forecasts assume that PHP can continue to grow its dividends (now paid quarterly) by c.2.5% in both 2016 and 2017, whilst remaining fully covered.

**Figure 22: Dividend Cover Progression**



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

The following tables highlight our summary income statement and balance sheet forecasts for the next two years.

## Financial Summary

**Table 3: Summary Income Statement**

(£m)	2015A	2016F	2017F
Net rental income	62.3	65.5	68.0
Admin costs	(6.8)	(7.3)	(7.5)
Net finance costs	(33.7)	(35.2)	(36.7)
Recurring PBT	21.7	23.0	23.8
Recurring EPS	4.9	5.1	5.3
Growth		5.7%	3.8%
DPS	5.00	5.125	5.25
Growth		2.5%	2.4%
Dividend Cover	98%	100%	102%
Shares in issue	446	446	446

Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

**Rental growth:** We assume modest rental growth of 1% on one-third of the portfolio each year. This will be bolstered by c.£50m of acquisitions in 2016, and 2017. Risks to these forecasts include a better or worse rental growth result or the addition of fewer or greater value of new assets than we currently estimate.

**Finance Costs/Debt:** Assumes current agreed facilities only with a blended cost of c.4.8% in 2016 and 4.7% in 2017.

**Admin Costs:** As gross assets grow the fee will ratchet down as follows:

**Table 4: Adviser and Fee base**

Gross Asset Value	Fee rate
First £250m	0.50%
Between £250-£500m	0.48%
Between £500-£750m	0.40%
Between £750- £1bn	0.38%
Between £1- £1.25bn	0.32%
Above £1.25bn	0.30%

Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

Our summary balance sheet assumptions are as follows:

**Table 5: Summary Balance Sheet**

	2015A	2016F	2017F
Property (£m)	1,101	1,179	1,243
<b>Total Assets (£m)</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>1,250</b>
Debt (£m)	(698)	(748)	(798)
<b>Total Liabilities (£m)</b>	<b>(762)</b>	<b>(812)</b>	<b>(862)</b>
Basic NAV	345	374	387
Basic NAV (p)	77	84	87
EPRA NAV (£m)	392	409	423
EPRA NAV (p)	88	92	95
LTV (%)	63%	63%	64%

Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

**Total Assets:** We forecast the addition of £50m new assets in both 2016 and 2017. We also assume further valuation uplifts of c.£28m in 2016 and £14m in 2017, reflecting the revaluation of construction assets as well as modest yield compression on the existing fully completed portfolio.

**Debt:** We assume that PHP draws down on its existing debt facilities to fund portfolio growth. We have not assumed that any new significant facilities are signed.

Risks to our estimates include upwards or downwards yield shift in excess of our current forecasts, a significant difference in the quantum and pricing of new debt.

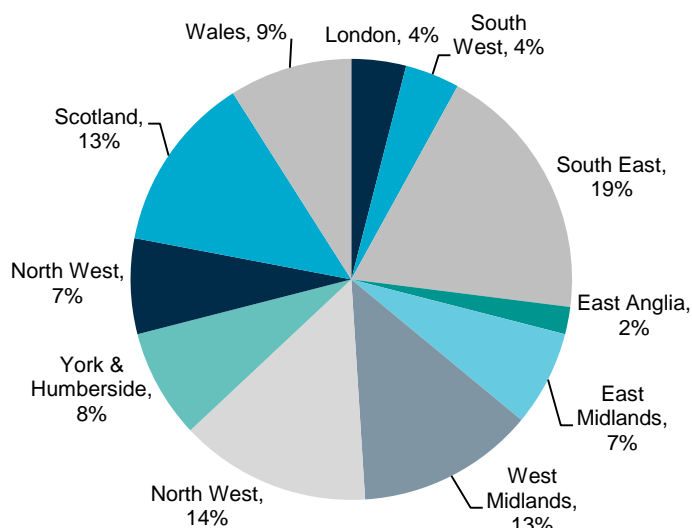
## Appendix

### PHP Portfolio Overview

#### Long leases with growth potential

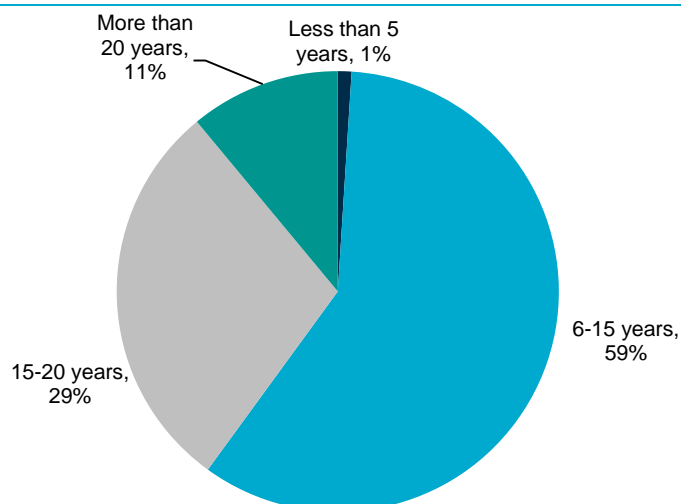
As at 31 December 2015, the portfolio comprised 273 assets (of which six are under construction). The number of tenancies on completed assets totalled 583, generating £61.8m of rent. The assets are well diversified by location, with a weighted-average unexpired lease term of 14.7 years.

Figure 23: Portfolio by Region



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

Figure 24: Lease Length



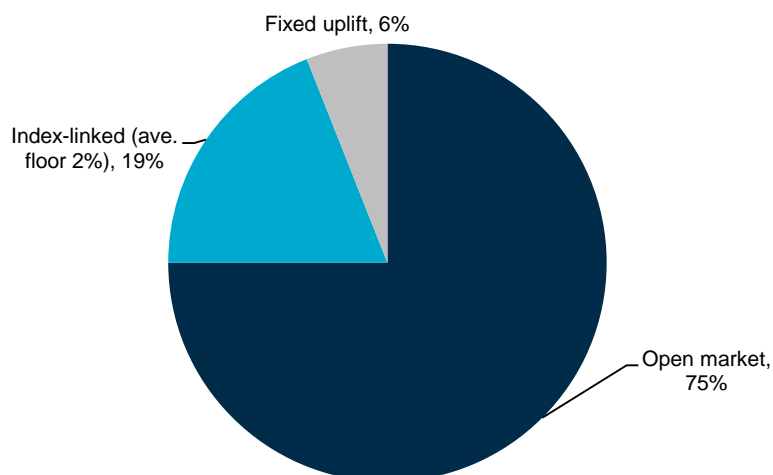
Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

More than 40% of the rent roll has more than 15 years remaining, but where leases are shorter than average, management undertakes asset management initiatives to enhance longevity of income. PHP invested £2.5m of capital across seven projects in 2015, generating £0.3m of additional rental income and securing an average of 19.4 additional years of lease terms. Two further projects are currently in progress, for a total capital cost of £1.5m, generating additional rent of £0.1m pa and an average additional term of 12 years.

### Regular Upward-Only Rent Reviews

Typically 10% of leases are reviewed annually, 77% on a three yearly basis and 13% every five years. 19% of leases are linked to RPI with an average floor of 2.0% pa and 6% of leases have a fixed uplift of 2.65% pa on average. The balance is subject to effective upwards-only open market reviews, agreed with the District Valuer's Office, a government agency. Key inputs into deciding a fair rent include the replacement cost of the asset, as well as general inflation and market evidence. In particular, replacement costs continue to rise, driven by tighter building regulation, higher specification requirements and increasing raw material prices. This should support rental growth across the portfolio over the medium-term.

Figure 25: Lease Review Profile



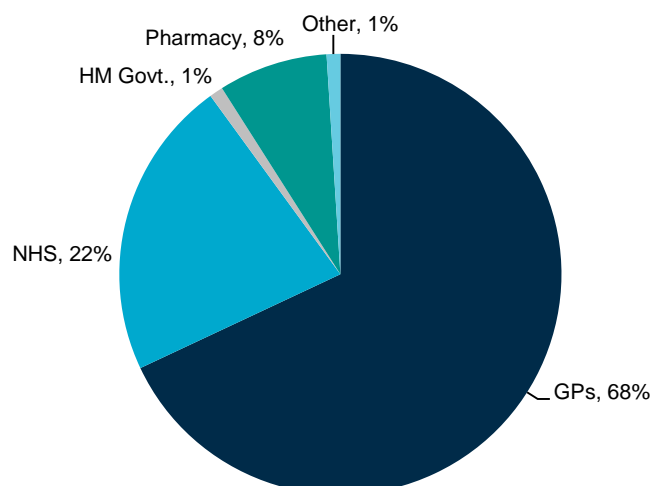
Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

The regular upward-only rent review profile gives management high visibility of cash flow, particularly compared with general commercial real estate operators. PHP can expect to receive minimum future lease payments of at least £899m from its existing asset base, excluding any future rental growth.

### Strong Tenant Covenant

Another comfort factor for dividends is the strength of the underlying tenant covenant. Of the total income, 91% is paid either directly or indirectly by the UK government.

Figure 26: Strong Tenant Covenant



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

### Government reimburses GP rent costs

In the case of GP tenants, the typical payment structure is quarterly. The most common lease in the portfolio provides that the relevant government body (NHS or PCT) pays GPs the current market rent for their premises, plus an allowance of 5% for any repairs. In turn, GPs pay the current market rent to PHP and accept responsibility for all repairs and maintenance. 8% of rent comes from pharmacy operators including national players such as Lloyds, Rowlands and Boots. Their premises are usually next to GP surgeries, have co-terminus leases and command a higher rent per sq ft.

## Peer Group Summary

There are three London listed players investing solely in primary health assets. The following tables and charts provide a summary of peer group portfolios and property strategies.

**Table 6: Portfolio Summary**

Company	Completed	Committed	Total	Ave. age	Ave. lot	Ave. lease	Portfolio	Valuation	yield	Valuers
	Assets	Assets	Assets	Yrs	size	Yrs	value	£m	NIY/True Equiv %	
Primary Health Props (Dec 15)	267	6	273	9	4.1	14.7	1100	5.32/5.52		Lambert Smith Hampton
Assura Group (Sept 15)	301	4	305	11	3.2	14.1	1025	5.42/5.81		Savills/Jones Lang La Salle
Medicx Fund (Dec 15)	143	6	150	7.2	4.0	15.8	583	5.40/not published		Jones Lang LaSalle

Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

PHP has the largest portfolio by value, comprising 273 assets. Assets are modern with an increasingly growing lot size, as the market continues to move towards the delivery of larger primary health facilities. PHP sources new build assets from a variety of developers and has a number of exclusivity arrangements in place to access new stock. Assura develops its own new build assets as well as acquiring from third parties. MXF sources properties from both third parties and the development arm of the investment adviser to the fund.

As the table below illustrates, the sector receives a large portfolio of its rental income either directly or indirectly (through rent reimbursement) from the UK government.

**Table 7: Lease Summary**

Company	Rent Roll Fully Built £m	Annual Rent Analysis			Rent Reviews	
		NHS/GPs %	Pharmacies %	Other %	RPI/Fixed %	Open market %
Primary Health Props (Dec 15)	63.7	91	8	1	25	75
Assura Group (Sept 15)	59.6	87	8	5	20	75
Medicx Fund (Dec 15)	36.4	90	8	0	28	72

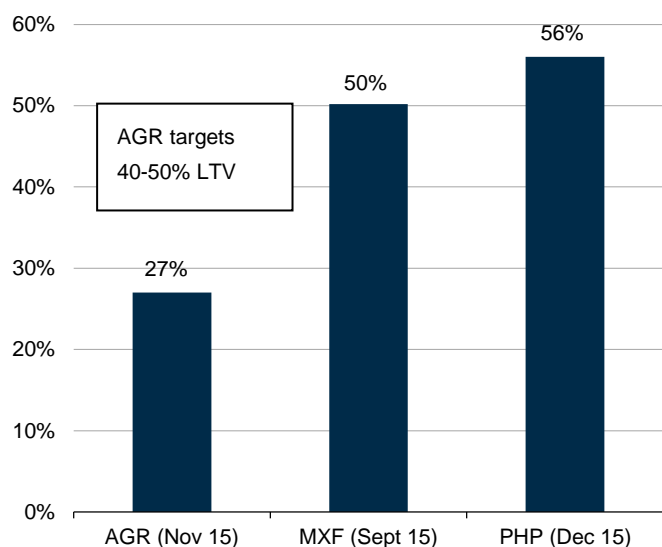
Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

Reflecting the predictability of revenue streams and the deep debt market for healthcare assets, the peer group operate with higher overall levels of leverage compared with the general commercial property market.

PHP currently has the highest overall LTV at 55% (excluding the convertible which is in the money). However, we believe it is important to note that no individual debt line contains a group level LTV covenant. Individual debt lines have their own covenant levels and remain comfortably within these.

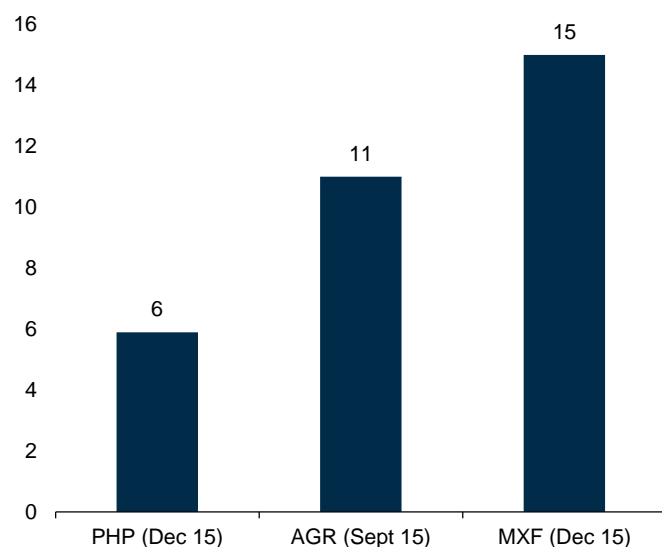
Following a sizeable equity raise, AGR recently reset a portion of its more expensive debt and reduced its overall borrowings, reducing LTV to 27%. This is expected to increase to c.35% on completion of the pipeline. Thereafter, AGR management has an LTV target of 40-50%.

Figure 27: Peer Group LTV (%)



Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

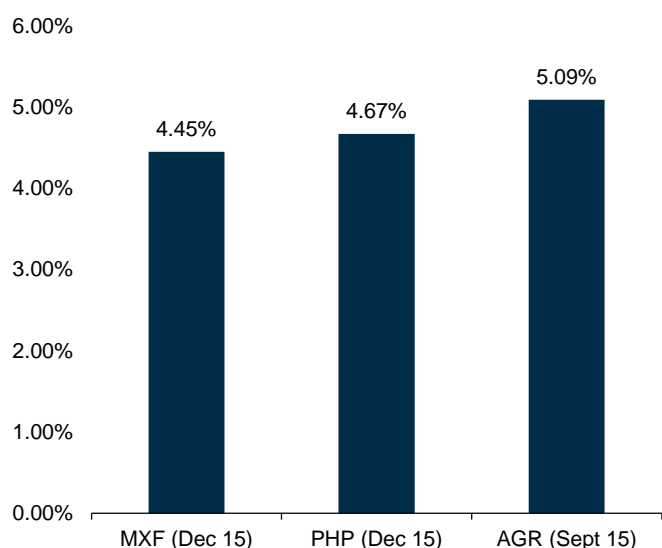
Figure 28: Average Debt Maturity (years)



Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

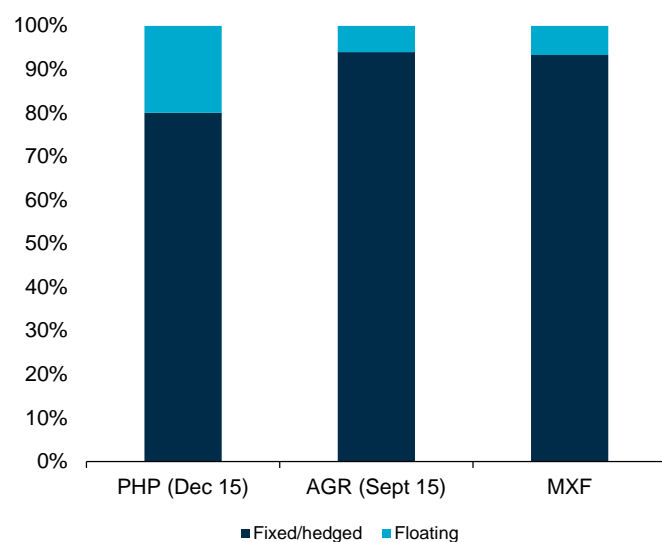
Medicx Fund has the longest average maturity of debt, closely matching the average lease length of the portfolio. In addition, overall facilities attract a lower average cost compared with the peer group. PHP has the shortest average maturity. As opportunity arises to refinance facilities and/or the swap book, PHP will seek to maintain or extend longevity whilst seeking to reduce the blended cost of debt.

Figure 29: Average Cost of Debt



Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

Figure 30: Interest Rate Exposure

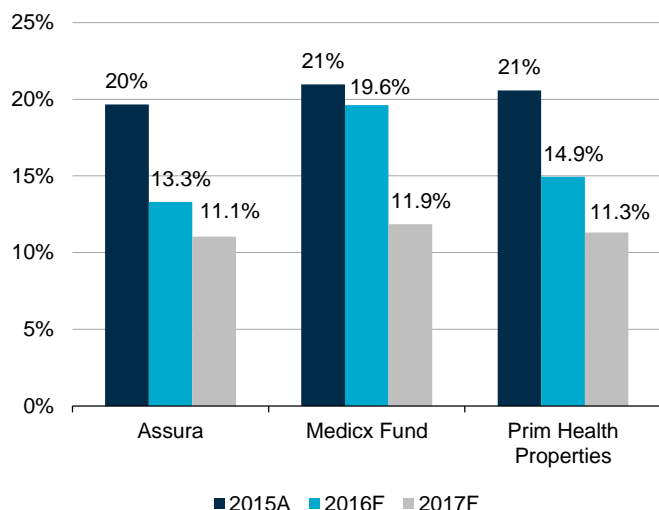


Source: Company &amp; Numis Securities Research

## Trading Statistics

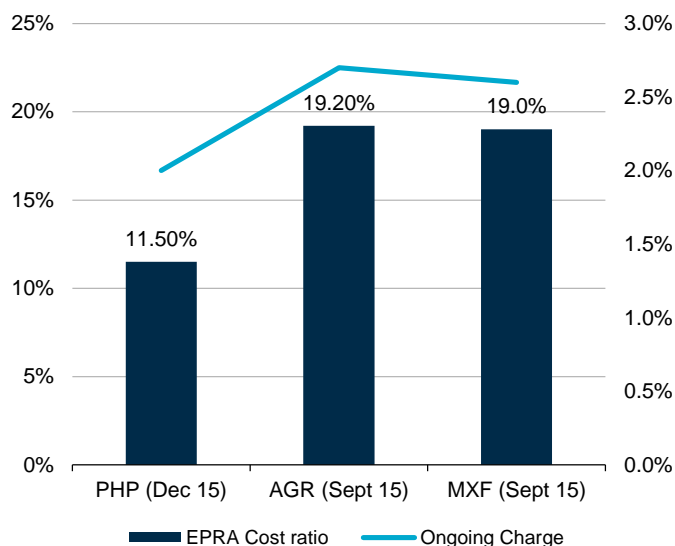
The following charts illustrate the current valuations across the peer group. The market continues to assign a premium to companies with strong income characteristics and a defensive asset base. In particular where there is a government covenant such as listed infrastructure or primary health. We expect this to remain the case in the current low interest rate environment.

Figure 31: Premium to EPRA NAV (Hist. and Forecast)



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research; Factset Consensus AGR and MXF

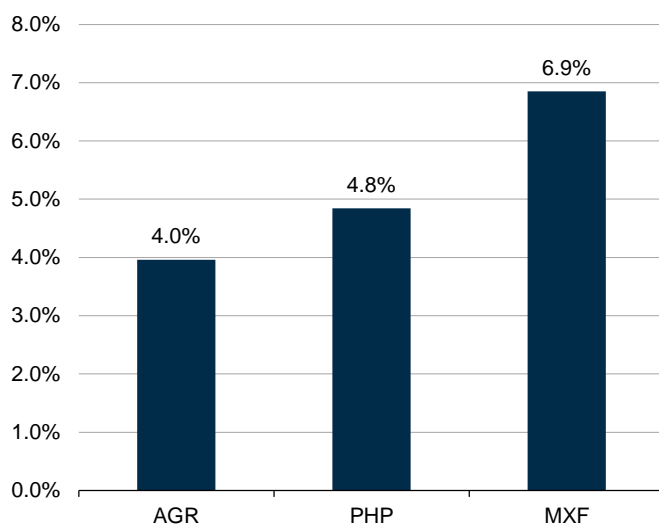
Figure 32: EPRA Cost Ratio/Ongoing Charge Ratio



Source: Numis Securities Research

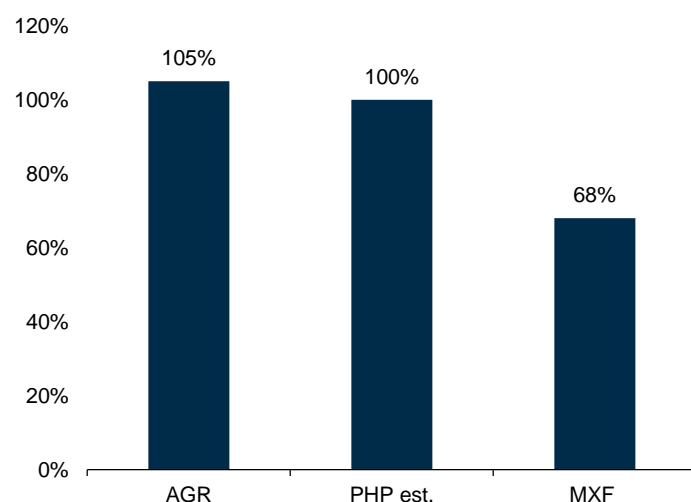
Compared with listed infrastructure funds, the wider premium for healthcare property can generally be justified by an expectation of greater near term NAV growth as well as asset ownership (PPP funds invest in finite life concessions where the asset reverts to government ownership at the end of the contract). In our view, the wider premium versus commercial property can be justified by the lower volatility of asset values and relatively high dividend yields on offer.

Figure 33: Dividend Yield



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research

Figure 34: Dividend Cover



Source: Company & Numis Securities Research



## Regulatory Notice & Disclaimer

The research analyst who prepared this research report receives compensation based upon various factors (such as the general perception of the analyst's ability and commitment to his/her analytical work) and upon the overall revenues including the investment banking revenues of Numis and/or one or more of its affiliates.

Numis and/or one or more of its affiliates may receive or may seek to receive compensation for investment banking services from Primary Health Properties in the next 3 months.

Numis has received compensation for investment banking services from Primary Health Properties in the past 12 months.

Primary Health Properties is or has been during the 12-month period preceding the date of this research report, a client of Numis.

As at the date of this research report, Numis and/or one or more of its affiliates is making a market in Primary Health Properties.

The company has seen a draft of the note and has made minor factual comments that have been incorporated.

Numis may rely on information barriers, such as "Chinese Walls", to control the flow of information within the areas, units, divisions, groups, or affiliates of Numis.

No part of the content of this research report may be copied, forwarded or duplicated in any form or by any means without the prior consent of Numis and Numis accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

## The following disclosures are addressed to US-based recipients.

### Analyst Certification

The research analyst who prepared this research report was Colette Ord. The analyst hereby certifies that all of the views expressed herein accurately reflect the analyst's personal views about any and all of the subject security and/or issuer at the date of original publication of this document.

The research analyst who prepared this research report also certifies that no part of the analyst's compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed by the analyst in the research report.

### Important Disclosure

This research report has been prepared and approved by Numis Securities Limited ("Numis"), a securities dealer in the United Kingdom. Numis is not a registered brokerdealer in the United States and therefore is not subject to U.S. rules regarding the preparation of research reports and the independence of research analysts. This research report is provided in the United States for distribution solely to "major U.S. institutional investors" in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Any recipient of this research report wishing to effect any transaction to buy or sell securities or related financial instruments based on the information provided in this research report should do so only through Numis Securities Inc. ("Numis Inc."). Numis Inc. may be contacted in writing or by phone: Numis Securities Inc., 275 Madison Avenue, 40th Floor, New York, NY 10016, U.S. phone (212) 277 7300. Numis Inc. is an affiliate of Numis. Under no circumstances should any recipient effect any transaction to buy or sell securities or related financial instruments through Numis.

Numis Inc. accepts responsibility for the contents of this research report, subject to the terms set out below, to the extent that it is delivered to a U.S. person other than a major U.S. institutional investor.

Numis, Numis Inc. and/or their affiliates, directors, officers, and employees may have or have had interests, or long or short positions, and may at any time make purchases or sales as a principal or agent of the subject companies mentioned or referred to in this report.

### Additional Disclosure

This Numis Securities Limited ("Numis") research report is for distribution only under such circumstances as may be permitted by applicable law. This research report has no regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation, or particular needs of any specific recipient, even if sent only to a single recipient. This research report is offered solely for informational purposes and is not to be construed as a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell securities or related financial instruments, nor is it to be construed as a recommendation for Numis to effect any transaction to buy or sell securities or related financial instruments on behalf of any recipient. There is no express or implied understanding between Numis or Numis Securities Inc. ("Numis Inc.") and any recipient of this research report that Numis will receive any commission income in connection with this research report. The securities that may be described in this research report may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain categories of investors. This research report is based on

information believed to be reliable, but it has not been independently verified and is not guaranteed as being accurate. This research report is not guaranteed to be a complete statement or summary of any securities, markets, reports or developments referred to in this research report.

Any statements or opinions expressed in this research report are subject to change without notice and Numis is not under any obligation to update or keep current the information contained herein. All statements and opinions expressed in this research report are made as of the date of this research report and are not held out as applicable thereafter. Neither Numis nor any of its directors, officers, employees, or agents shall have any liability, however arising, for any error, inaccuracy or incompleteness of fact or opinion in this research report or lack of care in this research report's preparation or publication; provided that this shall not exclude liability to the extent that this is impermissible under the law relating to UK financial services.

Investing in any non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments (including ADRs) discussed in this research report may present certain risks. The securities of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with, nor be subject to the regulation of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Information on such non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments may be limited. Foreign corporations are typically not subject to audit and reporting standards and regulatory requirements comparable to those in effect within the United States.

Past performance is not an indication or guarantee of future performance and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by Numis with respect to future performance. The value of any investment or income from any securities or related financial instruments discussed in this research report is subject to volatility and can fall as well as rise. Investors may not get back the full amount they originally invested. The value of any investment or income from any securities or related financial instruments discussed in this research report denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars is subject to exchange rate fluctuations that may have a positive or adverse effect on the value of or income from any securities or related financial instruments discussed in this research report.

## The following disclosures are addressed to non-US-based recipients.

Numis regards this document as research. It has been approved under part IV article 19 of The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the "FPO") by Numis Securities Limited ("Numis") for communication in the United Kingdom only to investment professionals as that term is defined in article 19(5) of the FPO. Its contents are not directed at, may not be suitable for and should not be relied on by anyone who is not an investment professional including retail clients. Numis does not provide investment advisory services to retail clients. This research report is not directed at you if Numis is prohibited or restricted by any legislation or regulation in any jurisdiction from making it available to you. You should satisfy yourself before reading it that Numis is permitted to provide research concerning investments to you under relevant legislation and regulations. This research report is not an offer or a solicitation to buy or sell any security. It does not constitute a personal recommendation and recipients must satisfy themselves that any dealing is appropriate in the light of their own understanding, appraisal of risk and reward, objectives, experience, and financial and operational resources. It has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of research. Non independent research is not subject under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive ("MiFID") to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of research. However, Numis is required by the FCA to have policies in place to identify and manage the conflicts of interest which may arise in its production, which include preventing dealing ahead. The prices of the investments referred to in this research report and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may realise losses on them. Neither past performance nor forecasts are a reliable indicator of future results. Numis accepts no fiduciary duties to the reader of this research report and in communicating it Numis is not acting in a fiduciary capacity. Neither Numis nor any of its directors, officers, employees or agents shall have any liability, howsoever arising, for any error, inaccuracy or incompleteness of fact or opinion in it or lack of care in its preparation or publication except where such is caused by its gross negligence, wilful default or fraud; nor shall it exclude or restrict any liability it has under the regulatory system to the extent that to do so is impermissible under the law relating to financial services.

All statements and opinions are made as of the date on the face of this document and are not held out as applicable thereafter. Research will carry the date of publication or, on research printed overnight, the date on which it was sent to the printers. Where a price is quoted in research it will generally, in the absence of contrary words, be the latest practicable price prior to distribution or, in the case of research printed overnight, the closing price at the close of business. Unless otherwise stated, prices in this research report are derived from quotations on the London Stock Exchange. A list of significant items which could create a conflict of interest and other material interests in relation to research, together with Numis's policy for managing such conflicts of interest, is set out on the Numis website ([www.numis.com/x/regulatory.html](http://www.numis.com/x/regulatory.html)).

Numis or one or more of its associates or a director or an employee of Numis or of an associate may from time to time have a position, or may have undertaken or may undertake an own-account transaction, in a security referred to in this document or in a related security. Such a position or such a transaction may relate to the market making activities of Numis or to other activities of Numis.

Numis or one or more of its associates may from time to time have a broking, advisory or other relationship with a company which is the subject of or referred to in this research, including acting as that company's official or sponsoring broker and providing corporate finance or other financial services. It is the policy of Numis to seek to act as corporate adviser or broker to many of the companies which are covered by the Research Department. Accordingly companies covered in any research may be the subject of marketing initiatives by the Corporate Finance Department.

A company covered in this research may have paid for an analyst's reasonable expenses to visit their premises or offered modest hospitality or entertainment; further details are available on request.

Research will specifically identify sources of information for material facts, where these are not regulatory company announcements and published company financial documents. In those cases (but not otherwise) where the subject company has seen a draft of the research report and has suggested factual amendments which are incorporated by the researcher, this will be noted on the research.

In longer pieces of research the risk warnings (if any) attaching to a particular company will be set out; in shorter pieces (typically no more than one-side long) there is a cross-reference to the archive of research on the Numis website where, under the appropriate company name, details of such matters can be viewed.

The archive of research (available to all clients who normally receive Numis research) is available on the Numis website (<http://www.numis.com/x/research-sectors.html>).

Numis accepts no responsibility whatever for any failure by a person resident outside the United Kingdom to observe the foregoing. No part of the content of any

research material may be copied, forwarded or duplicated in any form or by any means without the prior consent of Numis and Numis accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

Numis believes that its research service as a whole amounts to 'substantive research' as defined by the FCA

## Sector Notes (mentioning 6 or more companies)

Our sector notes may contain references to information on companies (e.g. target prices and recommendations) which has already been published by us (see our website at <http://www.numis.com/x/us-research.html>) and consequently, details of our assumptions, the material investment risks and/or the basis for each company's target price may not be repeated in these sector notes.

## Valuation and Risks

For details relating to valuation and risks in printed research, please refer to the company comment contained herein. In electronic pieces of research please refer to the relevant company section of the Numis website <http://www.numis.com/x/research-sectors.html>

## Ratings Key

Our aim is to identify funds where the share price will outperform the benchmark on a risk adjusted total return basis. This may be through either a narrowing of the discount or outperformance of the underlying portfolio. Funds are categorised as either Core Recommendations or Trading Opportunities and are assigned a rating of Buy or Sell.

Through the Core Recommendations we seek to identify buying opportunities for investors in each asset class. Our time frame for Core Recommendations is 12-18 months. Core Recommendations will take into account valuation, but will place a greater emphasis on the quality of management, performance record and risk characteristics (including portfolio diversification, gearing and any outstanding commitments).

Trading Opportunities are typically based on a shorter time frame of 3-6 months and our views regarding these may change in a relatively short space of time depending on movements in the premium/discount. These may include Buys and Sells, as well as switching opportunities between funds with similar investment mandates. When identifying Trading Opportunities, we tend to place a significant emphasis on valuation, typically by assessing the upside and downside to the discount/premium to net asset value based on a combination of historic trading ranges and peer group averages. Where appropriate we will also take account of discount control mechanisms (e.g. share buyback policies) or potential corporate action (e.g. forthcoming continuation votes). Generally a Buy/Sell rating will be categorised by expected out/under performance of at least 5% on an absolute or relative basis.

When making recommendations we take account of trading liquidity and, all things being equal, favour the larger and more liquid funds within an asset class. When any changes are made to the recommendations we will seek to explain the specific reasons for including/excluding each fund.

For investment companies with Equity mandates we typically focus on the outlook for relative, rather than absolute share price performance. For instance, we may recommend a fund investing in Japan because we believe it will outperform the TSE 1st Section, but this does not necessarily mean that we favour the Japanese market. For some funds there may be no appropriate benchmark or the target may be to achieve absolute returns (e.g. Hedge Funds). We may still recommend such funds as long as we believe they can add value on a risk adjusted basis allowing for the nature of their structure (e.g. gearing) and the volatility of their asset class.

## Distribution of Ratings

Follow this link <http://www.numis.com/x/ic-regulatory.html> for the 12 month historic rating.