

APPENDIX A – THE INTERPRETATION OF STATISTICAL DATA

Survey data is based on sample survey investigation and the application of statistical grossing procedures to replicate housing stock totals. Interpretation of data must be conducted against this background and particularly with regard to the following constraints:

- (a) **Data estimates are mid point estimates within a range of sampling error. The extent of sampling error is discussed in Appendix B but is dependant upon two factors – the sample size employed and the number or percentage of dwellings exhibiting the attribute in question.**
- (b) **Data estimates are subject to rounding errors associated with statistical grossing. Table totals will therefore not necessarily remain consistent throughout the reports but will normally vary by under 1%.**
- (c) **Survey returns from large scale house condition surveys invariably contain elements of missing data and not applicable data. The former may be due to surveyor error or to differential access within dwellings. The latter relates to individual elements which are not present in all dwellings. Consistently across the survey missing data represents under 5% of returns. An analysis of missing returns indicates a random distribution with no inherent bias evident across the main database.**