Financial X-ray

In a changing financial landscape, university IT functions are increasingly being asked to prioritise investments and make efficiencies. Under increasing scrutiny from the public and their own fee-paying students, they face choices such as which services to develop in house, which to move to the cloud and how to deliver real competitive advantage. But making these decisions depends on a clear view of their current position and an understanding of the real costs for delivering IT at their organisation - something that not all organisations have previously achieved.

Our Financial X-ray service provides a unique independent insight into your IT spend to give you a complete picture of its cost to your organisation - from managing your network to the annual costs of software. Through detailed analysis, our qualified accountant will help you not only identify areas requiring investment, but also recognise where there are opportunities for significant cost savings. This critical information will help guide immediate decision-making at operational level and also inform your medium to long term business strategy. This information is invaluable to ensure your organisation maintains its competitive advantage.

Benefits:

» Designed to meet the unique needs of research and education organisations – built in consultation with the British University Finance Directors’ Group (BUFDG), Universities UK and the Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association (UCISA)

» A bespoke service built on a standard activity-based framework of 40 areas, but tailored to the specific needs of your organisation, to give concise financial insight

» Less burden to your staff – we provide a highly experienced analyst to deliver the service- so you get the maximum benefit, for the minimum effort

» Fast results, with the opportunity for face-to-face feedback with you and your teams

» Benchmark your spend against other organisations in the sector in order to improve your competitive edge

» Bespoke report provided to inform your future business strategy

» The opportunity to develop and test the business case for moving functions to the cloud

» Over the longer term we can offer a repeat service to enable you to assess the impact of your improvements over time

"From our perspective, it’s easier to see where investment is needed if we have the full picture in front of us.

“What’s so good about the tool is that it also makes it easy to benchmark spend across the sector, which was a key recommendation of the Diamond Review on Efficiency and Effectiveness in Higher Education.”

Andrew McConnell, chair of BUFDG and University of Huddersfield
“This isn’t just about cutting costs. Knowing where you are not spending enough money is also important. If student experience is your top priority this may help to build the case for services to help you reach your aims. This tool has been a great starting point in refining our service spend.”
Andrew Minter, chief information officer at the University of Portsmouth

“What isn’t complete yet and already we’re working much closer with our Finance colleagues.”
Brunel University

“This tool is very timely and key to our strategic planning.”
University of Ulster

What can it tell me?

Our highly experienced analyst will provide you with accurate, independent statistics about your organisation’s financial performance including:

» Total IT costs as a percentage of annual turnover

» Spend on student-facing IT services per year

» Cost per user to support all IT services from bring your own device to workstation deployment and virtual learning environments

» IT costs which are managed and delivered locally, at faculty or department level

» Annual running costs of your data centre, network, IT helpdesk or library

» Robust comparisons against peer organisations

How does it work?

Building up the full picture of your existing cost profile is done through a combination of experienced accountant-led meetings and careful data analytics.

Once the scope of the work has been agreed, we will ask you to provide the relevant data for us to analyse and allocate to different cost pools.

During this process, we invite key staff to informal one-to-one meetings to capture additional information. Our qualified accountant records all relevant staff activity by IT service, from across the organisation to assess the overall cost of IT service delivery.

Within weeks, we present you with the findings, and you then receive a comprehensive final report which gives you both the highlights and the detail clearly laid out ready for you to use.

Who can use Financial X-Ray?

To ensure that we can provide a cost-effective service to you, the Financial X-Ray is only available to customers in organisations with a total income of over £40m.

NEXT STEPS...

1. Speak to our Financial X-Ray expert. Email service@ja.net or call 0300 300 2212

2. Book an initial consultation

3. Agree a set of dates for our accountant to visit your organisation and start your Financial X-Ray