Our cyber security posture survey 2022

Senior IT and security staff in 48 colleges across the UK told us:

Cyber security structure and operations

Cyber security continues to be a high priority at a senior level with almost all (94%) colleges including cyber security on risk registers, a rise of five percentage points from 2021. 79% of you also regularly report on cyber security risks and resilience to your executive board.

Only 33% of you have dedicated cyber security posts – though that's up 30 percentage points since 2017 – and 24/7 cyber security cover is even more rare, with your out of hours response to cyber security incidents usually provided by staff who are contactable in an emergency on a ‘best efforts’ basis. Does your out of hours cover reflect your business need in managing cyber risks?

Cyber security provision

Your perceptions of cyber security protection have stayed stable and cautious since 2020. While you feel that solid processes and controls are being put in place and certifications help with assessment, the changing threat landscape means that more can always be done.

More of you are achieving Cyber Essentials (69%) and Cyber Essentials Plus (40%) and certification is cited as a key element of cyber security processes. While most of you intend to recertify, you have some concerns about meeting the requirements around BYOD.

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) has increased this year, with more of you deploying MFA to staff and students. 96% deploy it for staff, a rise of nine percentage points since 2021. Student deployment is lower at 31%. However, this is up 18 percentage points on 2021 and trend data suggests MFA roll-out generally has become more of a priority for you over the last three years.
Cyber security priorities

Phishing/social engineering is your top concern, with 26 colleges saying this is the biggest threat. Ransomware/malware comes second.

With accidental data breaches ranking high on the list of threats, compulsory information security training for staff also remains high at 77%, although student training is again less common (21%, a drop since 2018).

The increased threat level has seen more of you take up cyber insurance. 90% of colleges have some kind of cover, up from 72% in 2021, although claims are not common.

How can we help you?

Cyber security is a top priority for you, and it is for us too. We've got an expert cyber security team who can help you cut through the background noise and stay informed about what really matters in the cyber security landscape. And by working closely with you, we'll be able to test and strengthen our understanding of what you need so we can develop solutions that meet your needs and the needs of the wider sector.

Talk to us

Your Jisc relationship manager can signpost you to support with cyber security issues: jisc.ac.uk/contact/your-account-manager

Visit our cyber security web pages: jisc.ac.uk/cyber-security