Our cyber security posture survey 2022

Senior IT and security staff in 62 universities 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 universities (97%) including cyber security on risk registers, a rise of two percentage points from 2021. 87% of you also regularly report on cyber security risks and resilience to your executive board.

90% of you have dedicated cyber security posts – up 21 percentage points since 2017 – but 24/7 cyber security cover is still 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.

Slightly fewer of you are achieving Cyber Essentials, for the second year in a row. Home working, bring your own device and changes to the Cyber Essentials requirements are all contributing to this drop, with some of you questioning whether something more appropriate for HE may be needed.

The rise in use of multi-factor authentication (MFA) continues, with more of you deploying it to both staff and students – 100% reported deployment to some or all staff and 80% to some or all students (a rise of 58 percentage points since 2020).
Cyber security priorities

Ransomware/malware is once again seen as the top threat with phishing/social engineering ranked second and unpatched security vulnerabilities and accidental data breaches in third and fourth place.

However, despite concerns about managing the human element of cyber, 84% of you prioritise enforcing information security training for staff, only 5% make it compulsory for students.

More of you are taking up cyber insurance. 55% of universities have some kind of cover, up eight percentage points on 2021, although claims are still not common. In fact, 71% of you have not made a claim in the last two years.

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