

Cyber Security

Longitudinal survey: Wave 2

Medium businesses

The Cyber Security Longitudinal Survey (CSLS) is a three-year longitudinal study which follows the same organisations over time. It aims to better understand cyber security policies and processes within medium and large businesses and high income charities and to what extent these change and improve over this time. It will also quantify specific actions resulting in improved cyber incident outcomes.



Risk management

84% of medium businesses took some kind of action to identify cyber security risks over the last 12 months. Using specific tools designed for security monitoring was the most commonly reported action (**67%**).



Supplier risk

Among medium businesses that had carried out a risk assessment of their suppliers, the most common actions were to have set minimum cyber security standards in their supplier contracts and to have requested cyber security information on their own supply chains (**56%**).



Cyber security training

In the last 12 months, **56%** of medium businesses have carried out any cyber security training or awareness raising sessions for any staff or volunteers who are not directly involved in cyber security. This was significantly more than the previous year (**45%**). More than four in ten (**42%**) of the board have ever received any cyber security training. This was significantly more than the previous year (**33%**).

For the full results, visit the [Cyber Security Longitudinal Survey](#).

For further cyber security guidance for your charity, visit the National Cyber Security Centre website (www.ncsc.gov.uk).

Technical note: Ipsos undertook a multimode (telephone and online) survey of 688 UK businesses (incl. 408 medium and 108 large businesses) and 373 UK registered charities. The main stage survey took place between 8 April and 29 June 2022. The data for businesses and charities have been weighted to be statistically representative of these two populations. A medium business is defined as a business with 50-249 employees.

This includes guidance covering:

- [Secure home working](#)
- [Secure video conferencing](#)
- [Encouraging cyber security discussions](#)



Medium businesses

During the three research years, this survey aims to provide a trend analysis of how organisations are improving their cyber security defences and to understand key drivers for changing practices and policies. Below is the summary of findings from the second year of the survey. Significant differences from the baseline survey are indicated by an arrow.

Peer influence

Over the last 12 months, more than one in ten medium businesses have changed any of their cyber security policies or processes because of an organisation in their sector experiencing a cyber security incident.



15%

because an organisation in their sector experienced a cyber security incident



10%

because an organisation in their sector implemented similar measures

External influence

External IT or cyber security consultants were the most likely to have influenced the actions of organisations on cyber security in the last year. Influences asked about were:

53% Δ

External IT or cyber security consultants

33% Δ

Insurers

22%

Regulators for your sector

22% Δ

Whoever audits your accounts



Expand or improve

Over the last 12 months, more than eight in ten (**84%**) medium businesses reported taking steps to expand or improve aspects of their cyber security. This was significantly more than the previous year (**70%**). Steps taken:

65%

Improved network security



64% Δ

Improved processes for user authentication and access control



58%

Improved malware defences



46%

Improved processes for updating and patching systems and software



46% Δ

Improved processes for managing cyber security incidents



48%

Improved the way they monitor systems or network traffic



33%

Improved the way they monitor users

