

Drowning in data? Keeping our heads above water through data-based decisions

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Questioning and reflecting on how you think about
data-based decision making

Case study: Tension between the demands of
coordinated national/international surveys and
needs of individual institutions for quality
enhancement

Data literacy

The ability to think critically about data in different contexts and examine the impact of different approaches when collecting, using and sharing data and information.

Data-based decision making

1. **Data Exploration:** considering the purpose or “why” of the data
2. **Data Management:** getting and storing the right data
3. **Data Use:** analysing, interpreting, reporting, etc. to achieve our purpose
4. **Reflection and Improvement:** examining each element to consider how we can better or more efficiently achieve our purpose

Essential Elements of Comprehensive Data Literacy (2021) National Center for Systemic Improvement <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED620527.pdf> [accessed 02/04/2024]

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES)

An annual survey (biennial from 2007-2017) of doctoral candidates

PRES participation: institutions and responses (2012–2023)

	2013	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Institutions	122	123	117	66	107	45	94	62	105
Responses	48,401	53,348	57,689	16,817	50,600	8,432	39,855	13,922	37,661

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2023: sector results report, AdvanceHE
<https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/> [accessed 02/04/2024]

Why participate in PRES?

Provides national, institutional and subject/discipline benchmarking

This information can be used to identify areas of strength, as well as to address how teaching may be changed to improve student outcomes and the appeal of programmes to prospective students.

AdvanceHE <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/> [accessed 02/04/2024]

The survey - overview

Overall experience (including an “overall satisfaction” question

1. Supervision
2. Progression
3. Community (new in 2023)
4. Responsibilities
5. Research Skills
6. Professional Development
7. Resources
8. Research Culture
9. Support
10. Covid-19 Support (optional)

Career motivations, demographics and development opportunities including teaching

The survey - themes

Research Culture

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the research culture?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
6_1_a. I have access to a good range of seminars in my research area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6_2_a. I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other researchers including research students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6_3_a. The research community in my research area influences my work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6_4_a. I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Each theme is formed of between three and six questions, the **average of answers to the questions** is calculated to be the overall score for that theme.

Coventry University – PRES 2023

850 PGR

2023 response rate = 50%

(Mean global response rate of 30.2% across 105 institutions).

Preparation –

- ‘You said, we did’ campaign
- Banners, screens

During

- Personal invitation to participate – Dear X
- Survey access control - chasing non-responders

The data & outputs



The survey – out of our control

Uses generic terms: ‘induction’, rather than institutional terminology: ‘Welcome Programme’

Theme headings don’t always reflect questions within the theme

AdvanceHE hold the intellectual property and the data

Analysis not always relevant to our institutional context

Focus on Subject

Law

The overall satisfaction PGRs in Law had with their studies was 92%, based on 13 responses. Aspects of best practice were research discussion amongst PGRs and research community opportunities. Specialist resources online and support for using IT / resources were areas for improvement.

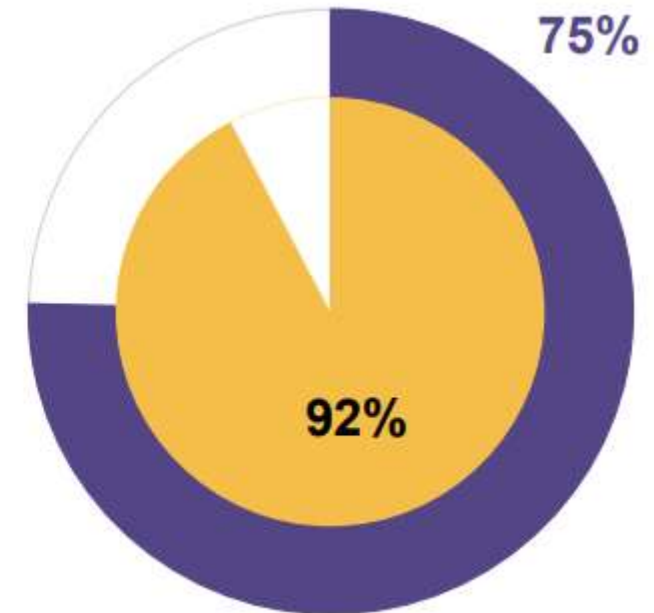


Figure 1: Overall satisfaction

Significant in-house analysis required to make the data relevant to stakeholders

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) 2023

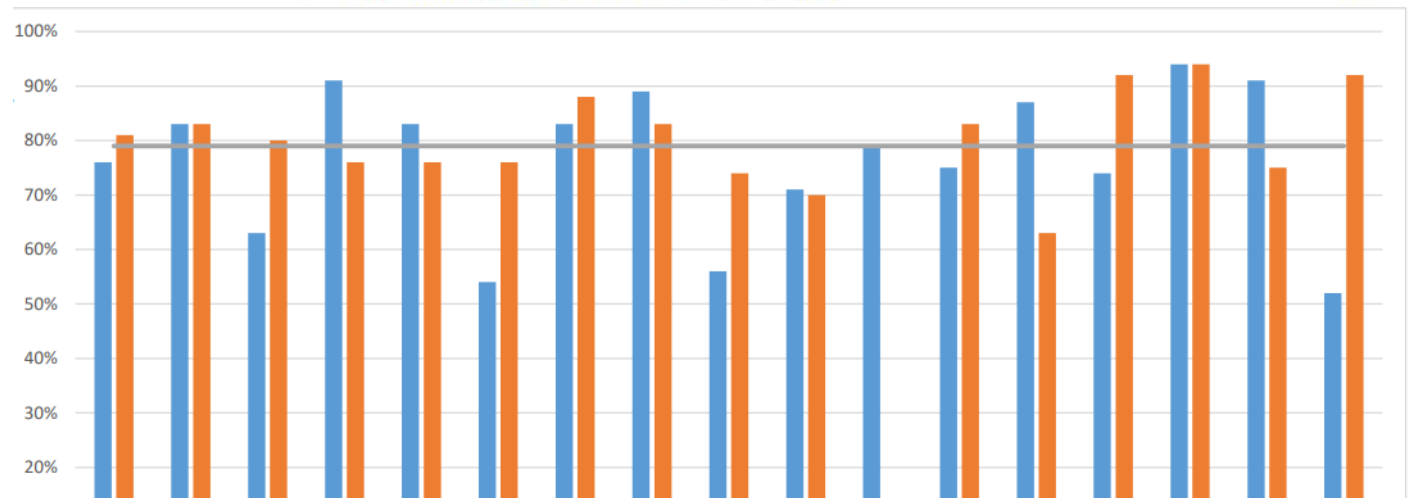
Report Author: Carolyn Wynne

Contributions from: Professor Richard Dashwood (DVCR) and Dr Heather Sears

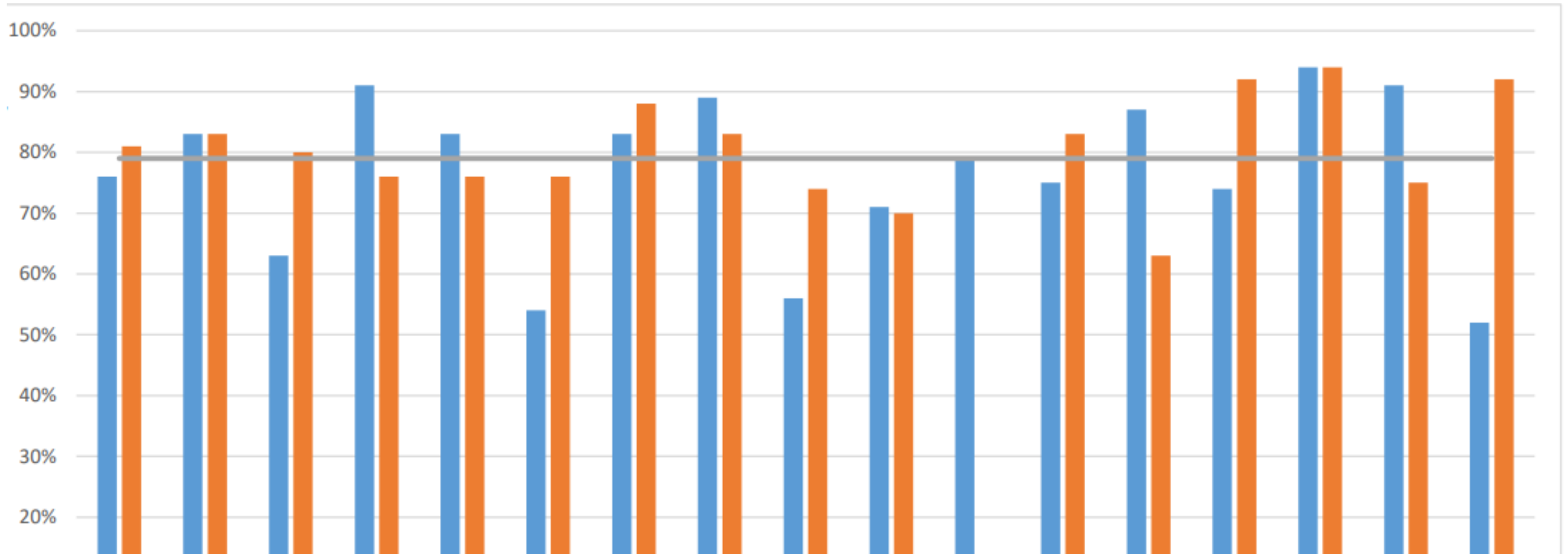
November 2023

Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
2. INTRODUCTION	4
3. METHODS.....	4
4. HOW DOES COVENTRY UNIVERSITY COMPARE?	5
5. BREAKDOWN OF SCALES BY RESEARCH CENTRE	7
6. KEY DRIVERS FOR OVERALL SATISFACTION	16



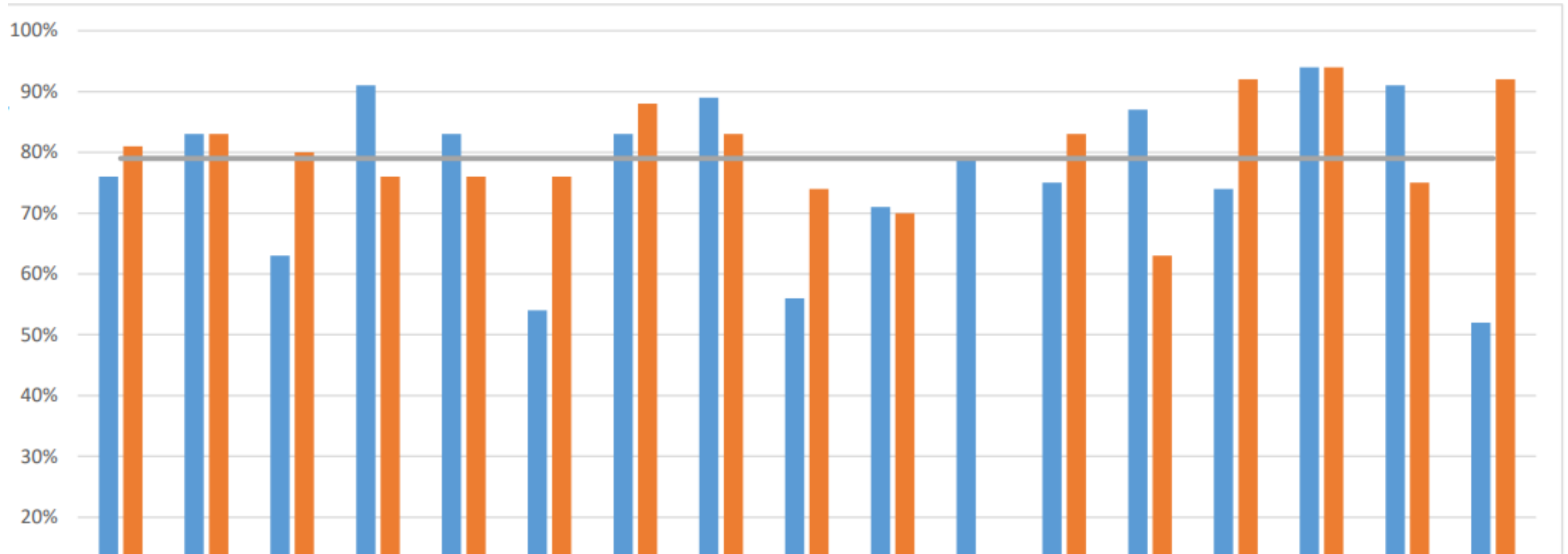
Significant variance within the institution



Blue = 2021

Orange = 2023

Institutional score skewed by size of unit



Blue = 2021

Orange = 2023

European Charter and Code & HR Excellence in Research Award (HREinR)

Coventry has held HREinR since 2012

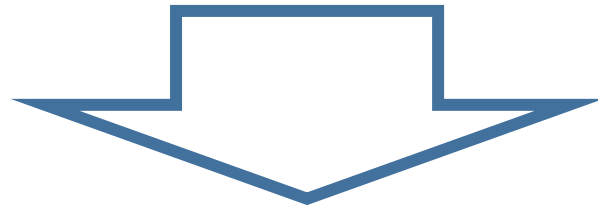
- Report on progress made against previous Action Plan
- Future Action plan



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Researchers

**Careers in Research On-line Survey (CROS) &
Principal Investigators and Research Leaders (PIRLS)**



**Culture, Employment and Development
of Academic Researchers (CEDARS)**

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Coventry University Researchers Survey (CUREs)

Questions – relate directly to the HREinR Award Action Plan

Uses institutional terminology

Coventry University hold the intellectual property and the data

Coventry University Researchers Survey (CUREs)

April 2024

- 350 researchers**
- Response rate = 50%**

June 2024

Follow up 'Research Cafes' using the data

September 2024

HR Excellence in Research Renewal submission