

Public Sector Corporate Services VfM
Indicators
Finance
2009/10

Barchester

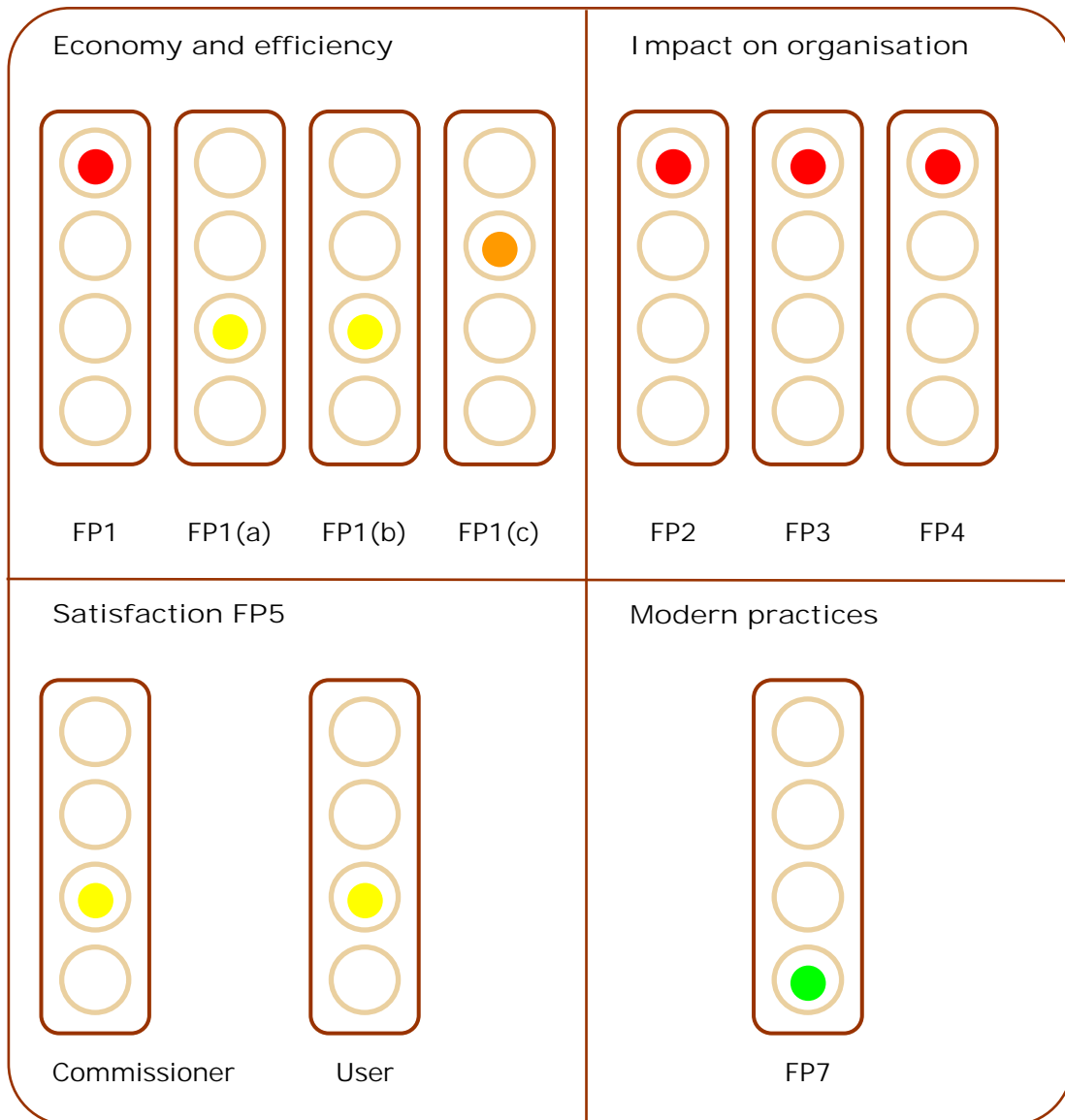
compared with

Barchester
Thinham
Funhampton
Dogcity
Longcaster
Flanfield

Funcester
Funshire
Tickham
Richton
Bearshire
Gunhampton

Computed and printed by:
CIPFA Business Ltd
No. 1 Croydon, 12-16 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 0XT
Tel: 020 8667 1144 Fax: 020 8681 6741

The Audit Agencies developed an approach to considering Value for Money for Corporate Services which had four dimensions. The overall results are shown below:



Notes:

- a green light indicates performance in the best quartile; a yellow light indicates performance between the median and best quartile; an amber light indicates performance between the median and worst quartile and a red light indicates performance in the worst quartile
- for the purposes of this report, high cost and low productivity are considered poor. However, we accept this is a generalisation and that in some circumstances organisations can choose to invest more in functions because they have under invested in the past or because they want to place particular emphasis on a function
- full descriptions of the indicators are shown in the remainder of this report
- the FP7 indicator shown for modern practices was optional for organisations using the CIPFA Financial Management Model

Section 1 - ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY

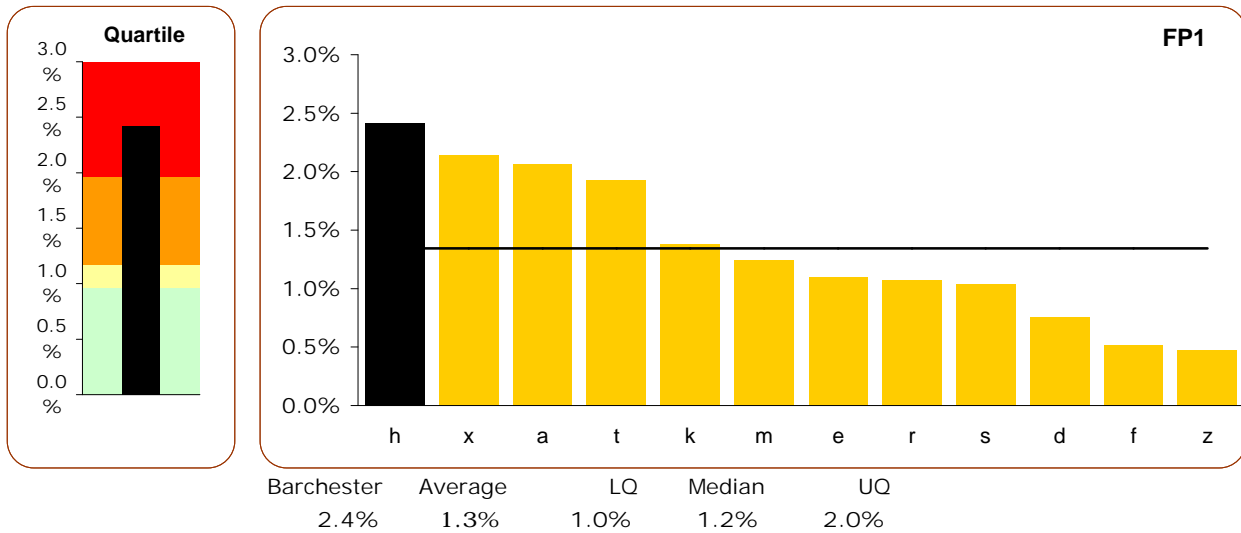
FP 1 Cost of the Finance function

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

A standard and commonly used indicator that seeks to establish whether the costs of running the finance function are in proportion to the resources that are being managed. Measurement of the total cost of the finance function as a percentage of overall spend allows management to monitor closely the finance cost of their organisation and could be used to track trends across any given time-frame. Measurement of the cost of transaction processing and business decision support enables organisations to understand the resources devoted by finance on 'value added' activities as a proportion of finance cost.

Over time, organisations should expect to reduce expenditure on transaction processing as a percentage of the total cost of the finance function. Similarly they should expect to increase the percentage of the total cost of the finance function spent on business decision support.

FP1 Finance function cost as % of organisational running costs



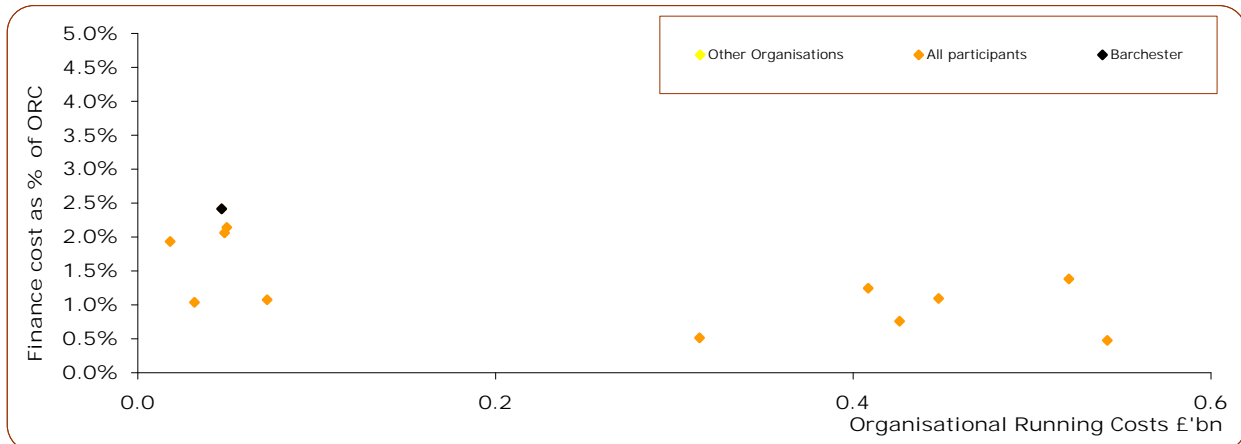
Cost of Difference

This shows the monetary value represented by the difference in percentage from the median (and lower quartile). Favourable variances are shown as negative figures.

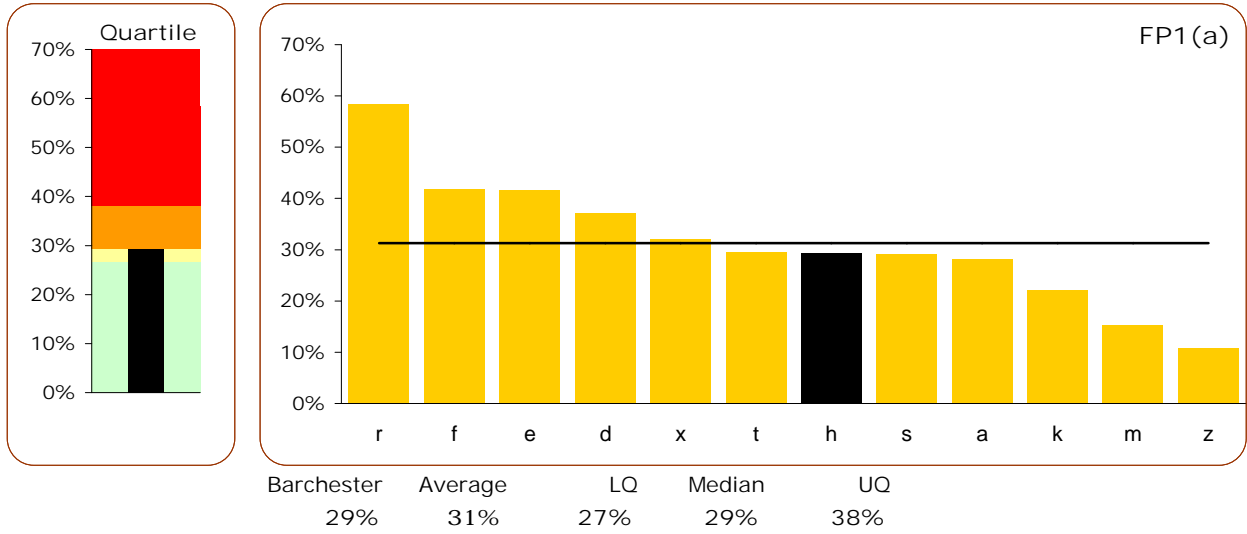
From median (£'000) £585 From lower quartile (£'000) £678

Economies of Scale

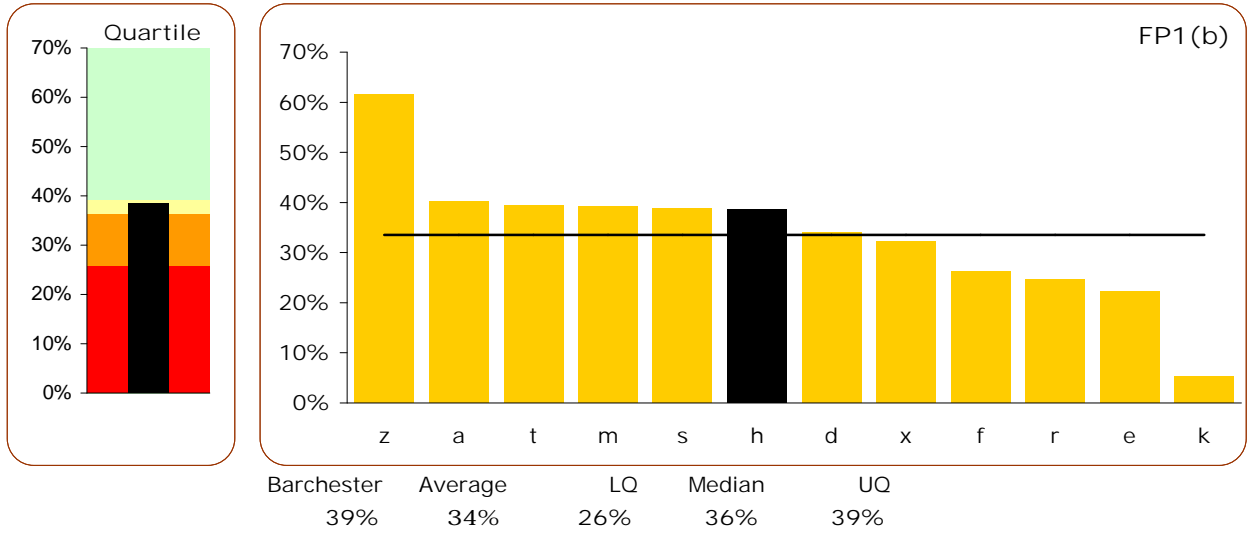
This chart investigates the relationship between cost and size of the organisation. There is some indication that very small organisations tend to use a higher proportion of their resources on the Finance function.



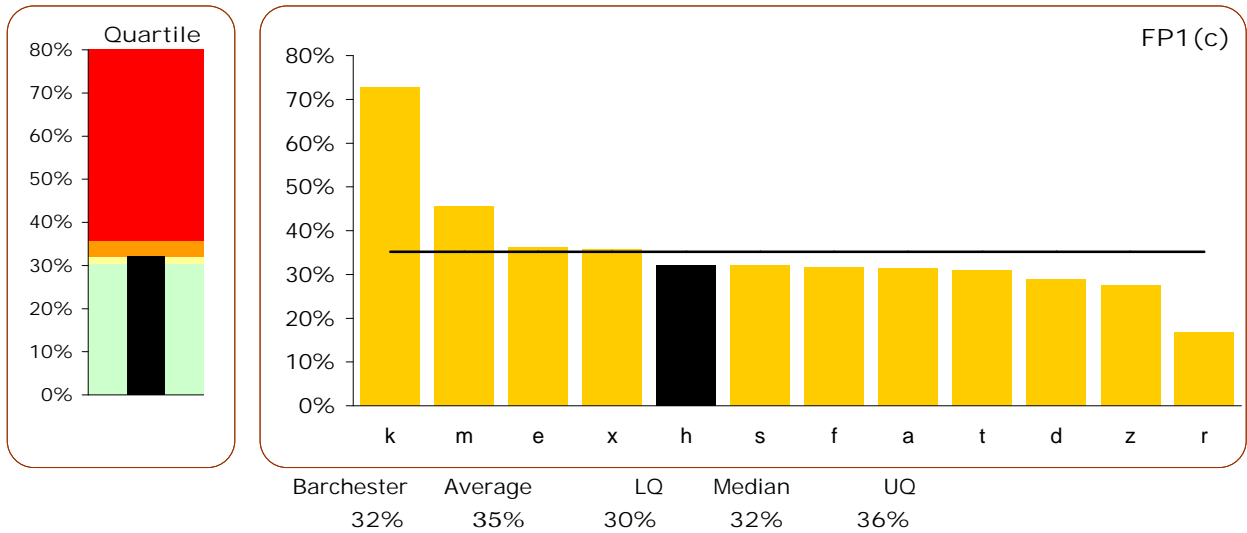
FP1(a) Transaction processing cost as a percentage of finance function costs



FP1(b) Business decision support cost as a percentage of finance function costs

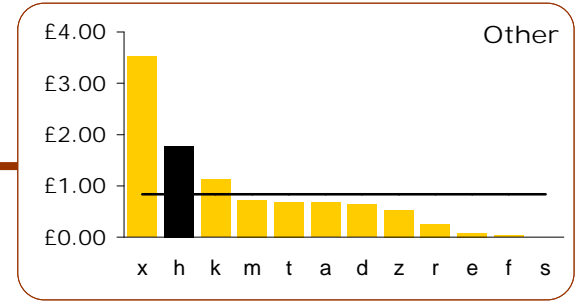
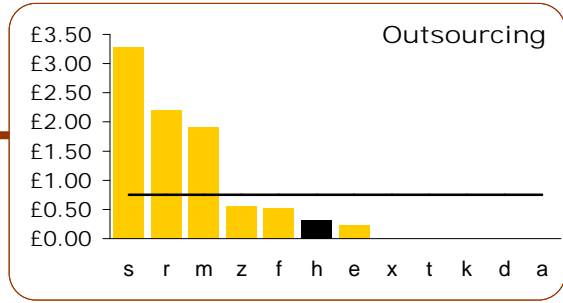
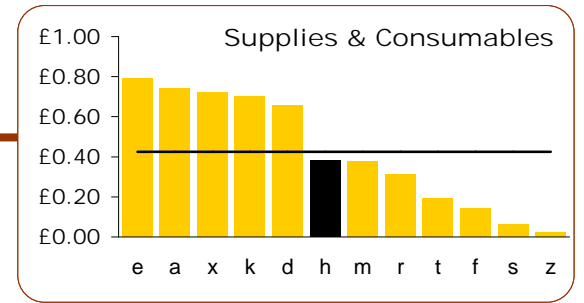
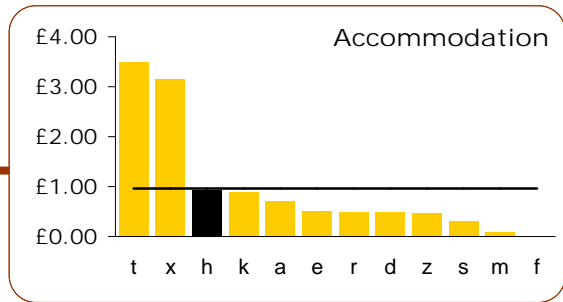
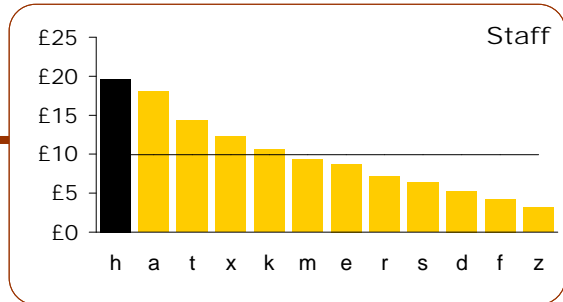
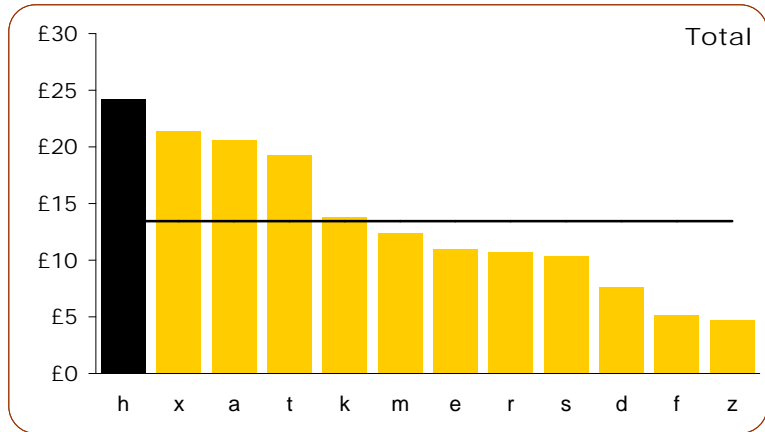


FP1(c) Cost of reporting and control as a proportion of finance function costs



Finance Cost per £'000 Organisational running costs

2009/10 Actuals



Secondary Indicators

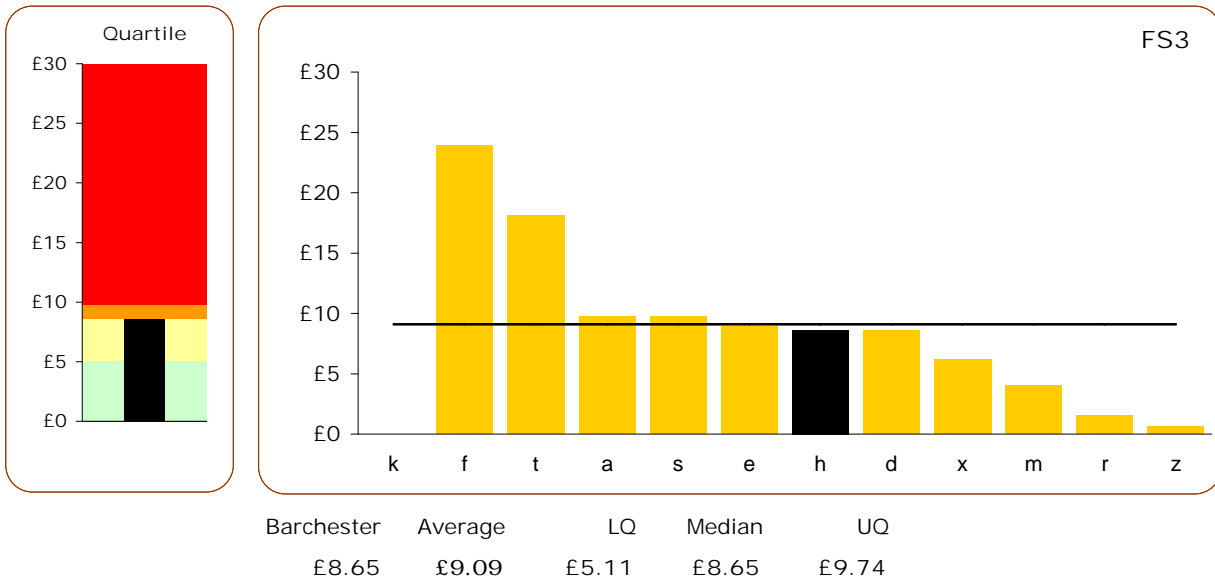
FS3 Cost of Customer Invoicing function per customer invoice

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

A standard and commonly used indicator that examines the efficiency of the invoicing function by identifying the cost of raising each customer invoice. Organisations should interpret achievement against

this indicator alongside secondary indicators 5 (credit notes as a percentage of invoices raised) and 6 (cost of Accounts Payable per invoice processed).

In most cases organisations should aim for a period-on-period reduction in the average cost of invoice processing. This indicator could additionally suggest the minimum value for which an invoice should be

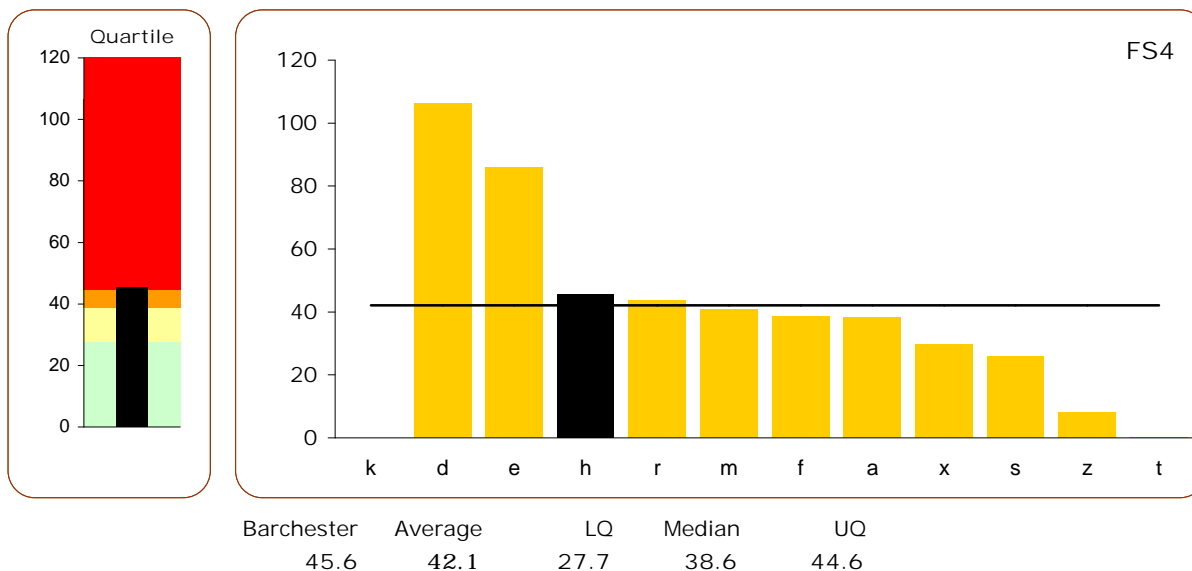


FS4 Debtor days

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

A standard and commonly used indicator that identifies the average number of days for the organisation to receive payment for its invoices.

Organisations should aim to achieve a period-on-period reduction in average debtor days.

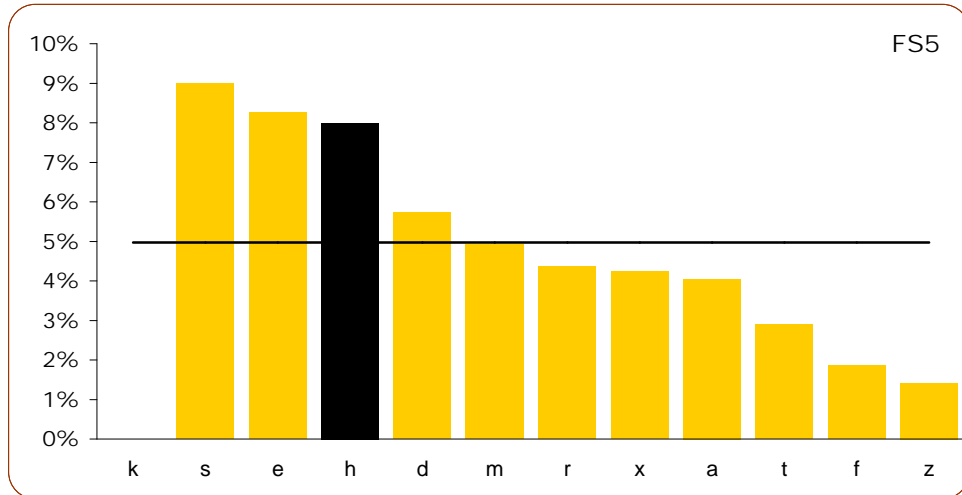
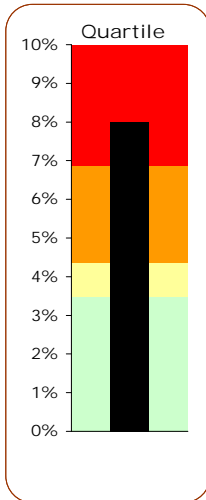


FS5 Credit notes as a % total customer invoices raised

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

This indicator examines the accuracy of invoices raised by reviewing the number of credit notes required to make adjustments to invoices previously raised.

Organisations should aim to achieve a period-on-period reduction in the percentage achieved for this indicator. Organisations should interpret achievement against this indicator alongside secondary indicators 3 (cost per customer invoice processed) and 6 (cost of Accounts Payable per invoice processed). (Note: The indicator is being used as a proxy for accuracy although it is recognised that organisations may use other mechanisms to make adjustments).

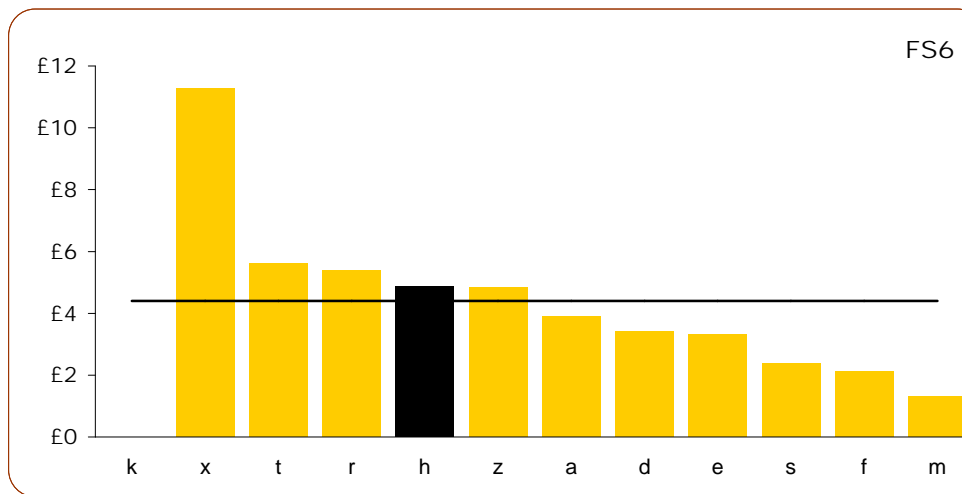
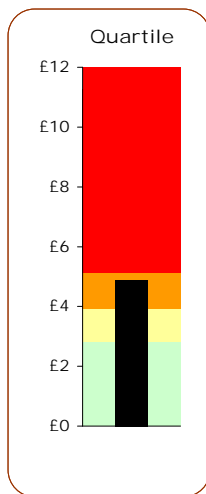


Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
8.0%	5.0%	3.5%	4.4%	6.9%

FS6 Cost of Accounts Payable per accounts payable invoice processed

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

A standard and commonly used indicator identifying the cost of processing each supplier invoice. Organisations should aim to achieve a period-on-period reduction in the cost achieved for this indicator. Organisations should interpret achievement against this indicator alongside secondary indicators 3 (cost per invoice raised) and 5 (credit notes as a percentage of invoices raised).



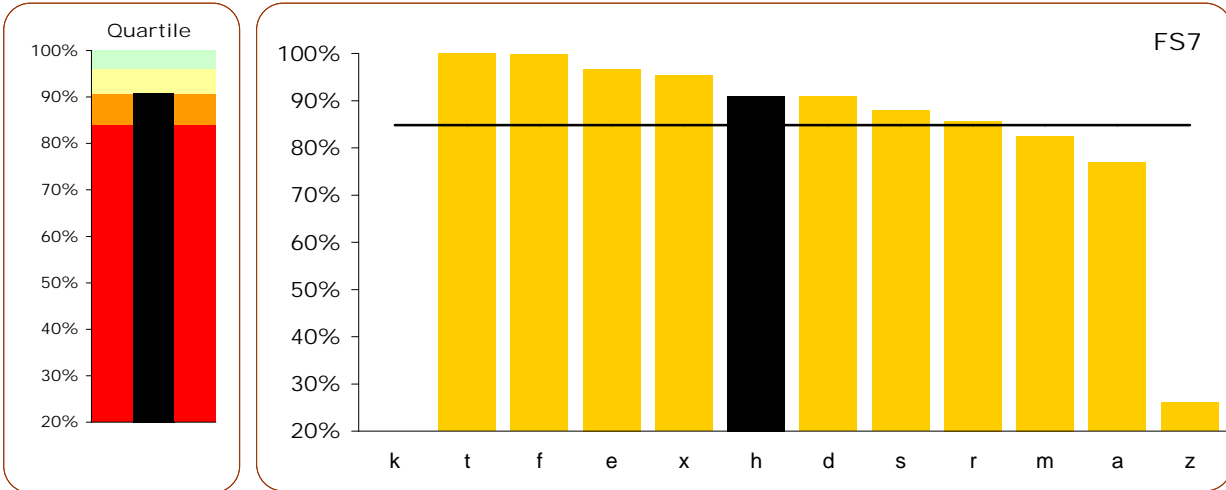
Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
£4.89	£4.40	£2.84	£3.92	£5.14

FS7 % payments made by electronic means

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

This indicator identifies the proportion of all payments made electronically, particularly with respect to BACS and RFT1, since these methods usually offer the most effective savings of time and cost compared with manual payment systems.

In most cases organisations would seek to achieve a period-on-period increase in the proportion of payments made electronically.

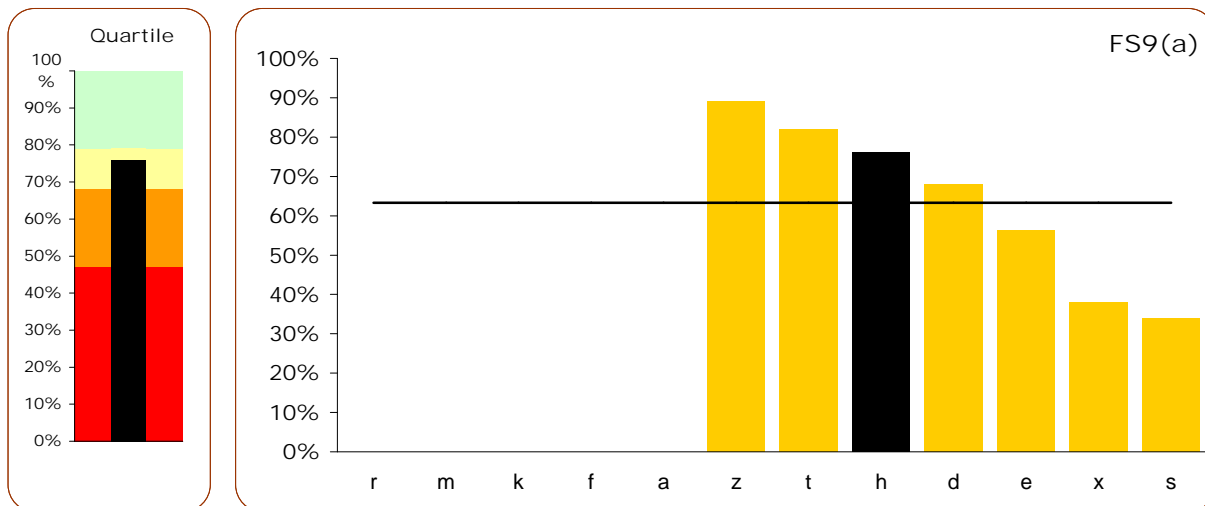


Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
90.9%	84.8%	84.1%	90.9%	96.0%

FS9(a) % invoices for commercial goods & services paid by the organisation within 10 days of receipt

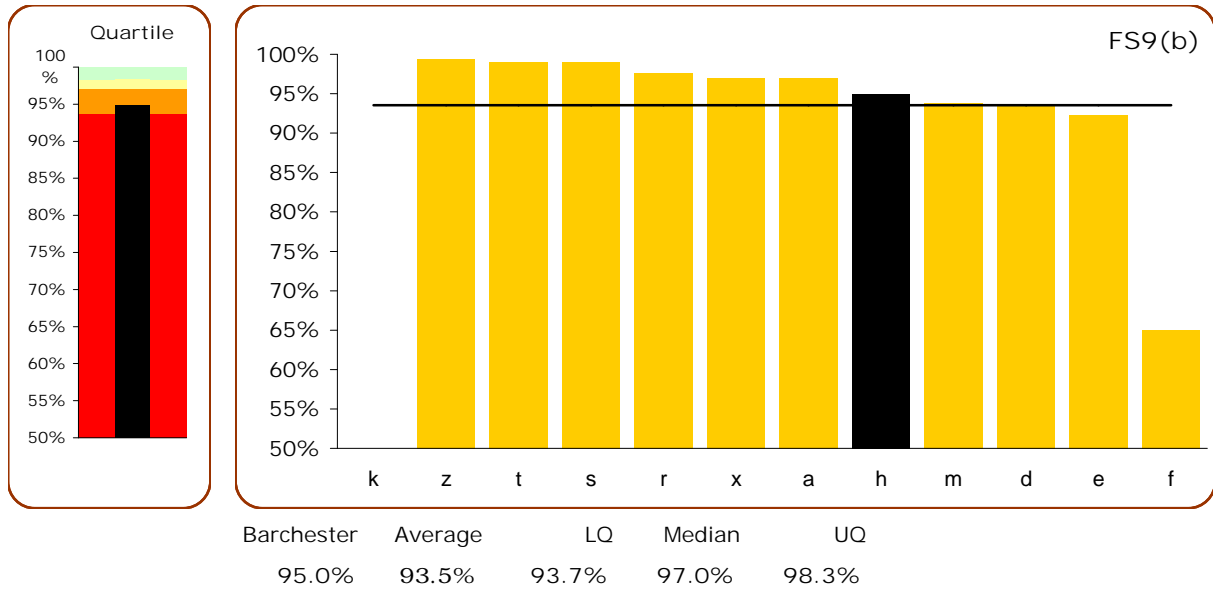
Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

A standard and commonly used indicator that identifies the proportion of invoices that an organisation pays within 10 days and 30 days or within the agreed payment terms. To encourage prompt payment of invoices received. Performance should be within the appropriate prompt payment requirements.



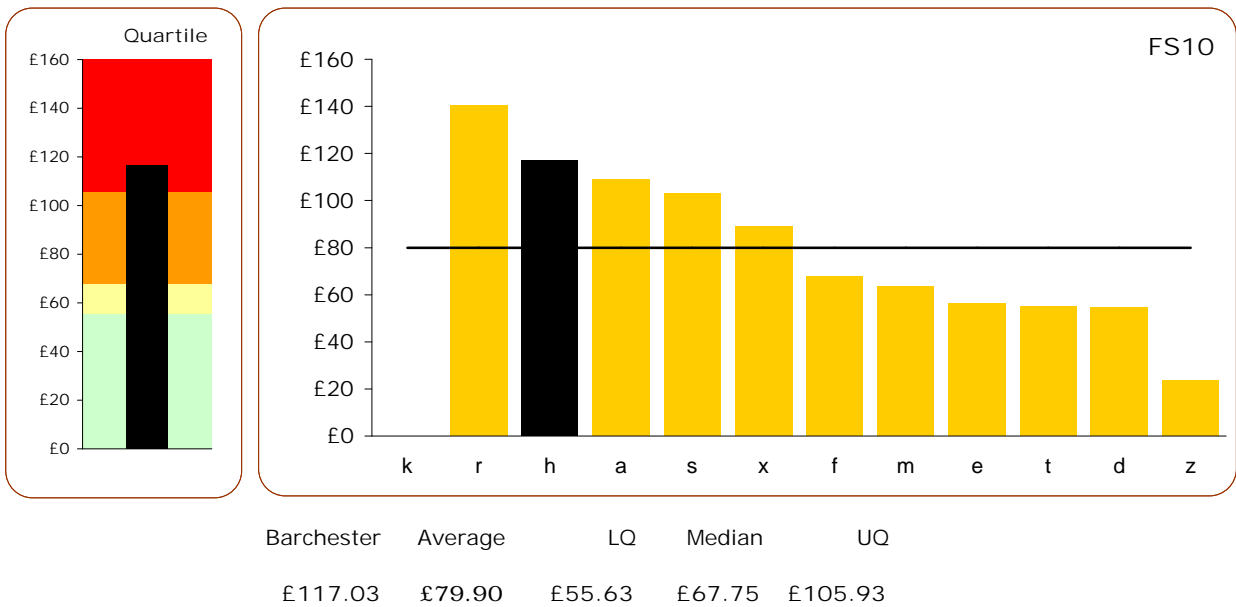
Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
76.0%	63.3%	47.1%	68.1%	79.0%

FS9(b) % invoices for commercial goods & services paid by the organisation within 30 days of receipt or within the agreed payment terms



FS10 Payroll admin cost per employee paid

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour
 A standard and commonly used indicator that seeks to establish the cost of paying one single employee as an indicator of the cost effectiveness of the payroll function.
 In most cases organisations should aim for a period-on-period reduction in the average cost.
 (Note: This function may be a responsibility of HR in some organisations. In these instances the indicator should accordingly be completed by HR)



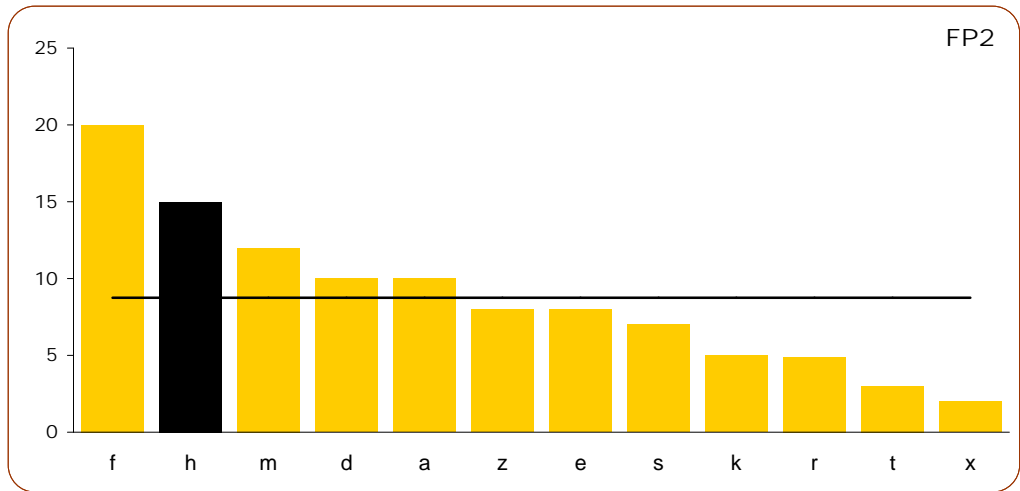
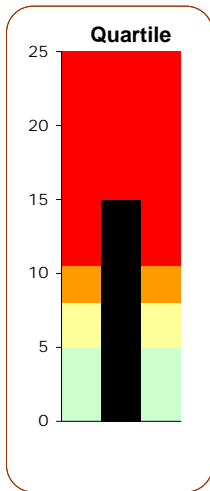
Section 2 - IMPACT

FP2 Days from period-end closure to distribution of routine financial reports to budget managers and overseeing boards and committees

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

This indicator measures the typical number of days it takes the finance department to produce management information and so identifies the extent to which budget managers, and overseeing boards and committees, can take timely financial decisions based on up to date financial information.

In most circumstances organisations should aim to reduce the number of working days to produce financial reports. Organisations should interpret their achievement against this indicator in conjunction with the response to the commissioner statement 'The financial information provided for financial planning and management is accurate, timely and easy to access' (contained in primary indicator 5) and secondary indicator 2(b) (which asks whether the year-end accounts were qualified by external audit).

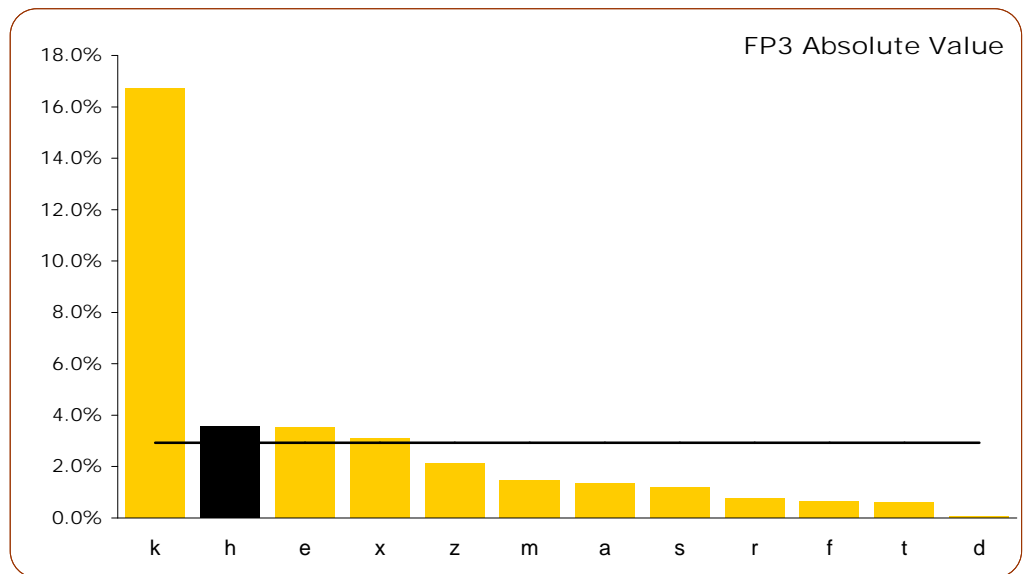
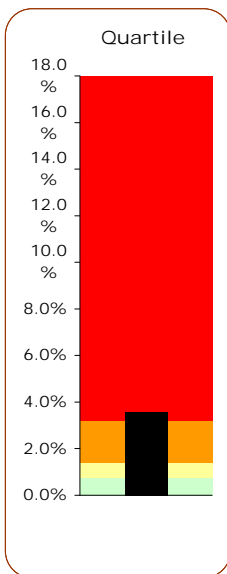
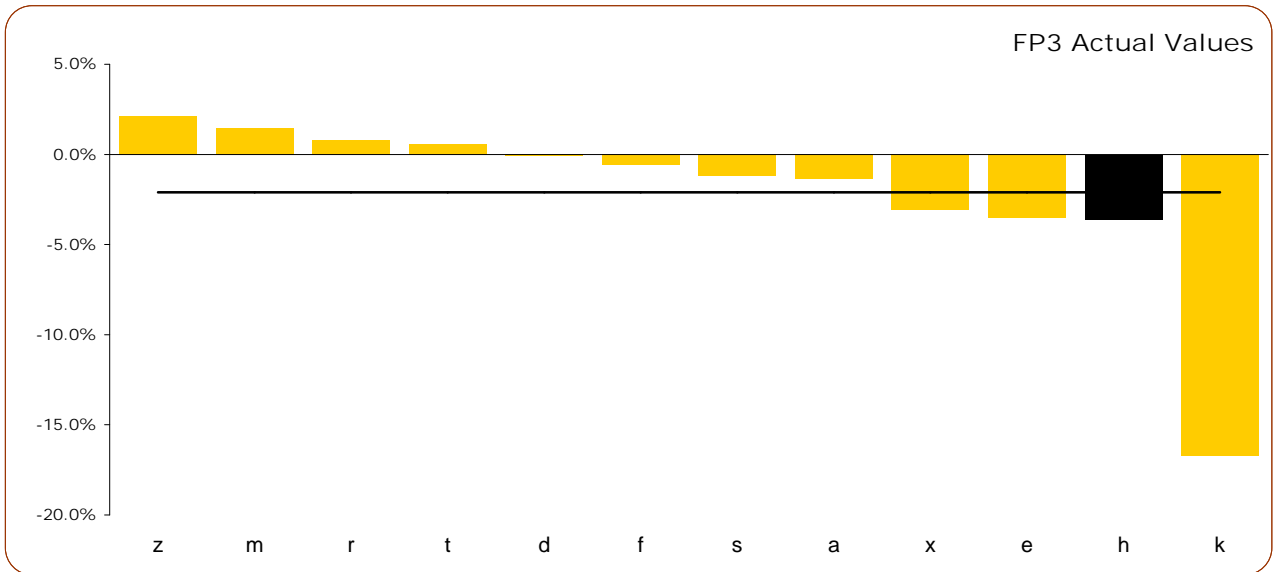


Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
15	9	5	8	11

FP3 % variation between forecast outturn at month 6 and the actual outturn at month 12

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

This indicator assesses the accuracy of forecasting. Organisations should aim to reduce the level of variation between their month 6 forecast and the year-end outturn by improving forecasting and budgetary control.

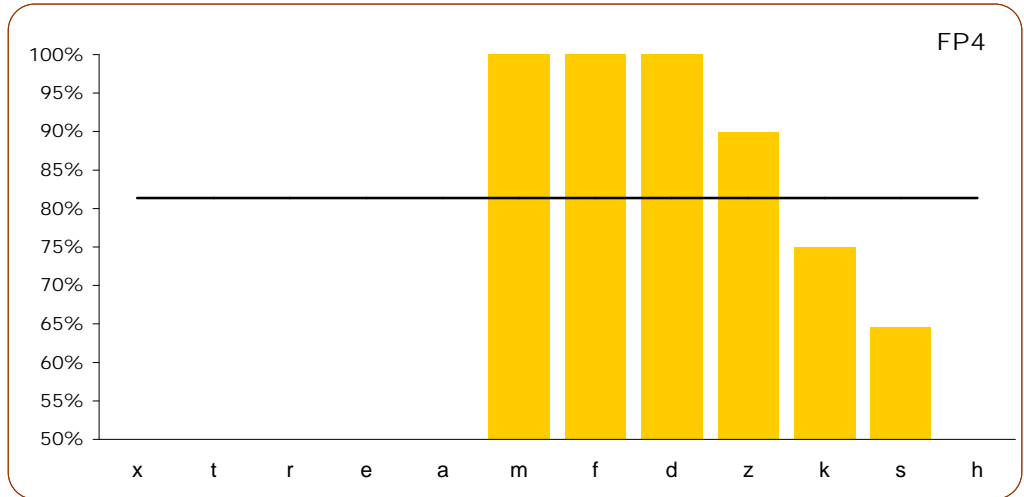
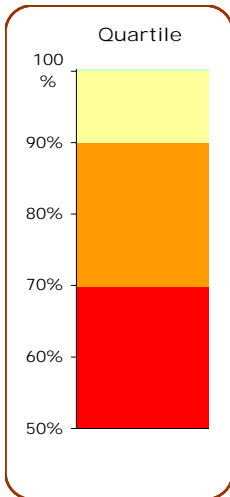


Department	Average	LQ	Median	UQ	
Barchester	3.6%	2.9%	0.7%	1.4%	3.2%

FP4 % public sector organisation spend for which there are fully costed outputs which are measured by key performance metrics and for which a named individual is accountable

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

High performing organisations are likely to ensure that the totality of their spend is allocated against outputs, supported by key metrics which measure performance with clear lines of accountability. Over time, organisations should aim to increase the percentage of their spend that meets the criteria of this indicator.



Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
40.0%	81.4%	69.8%	90.0%	100.0%

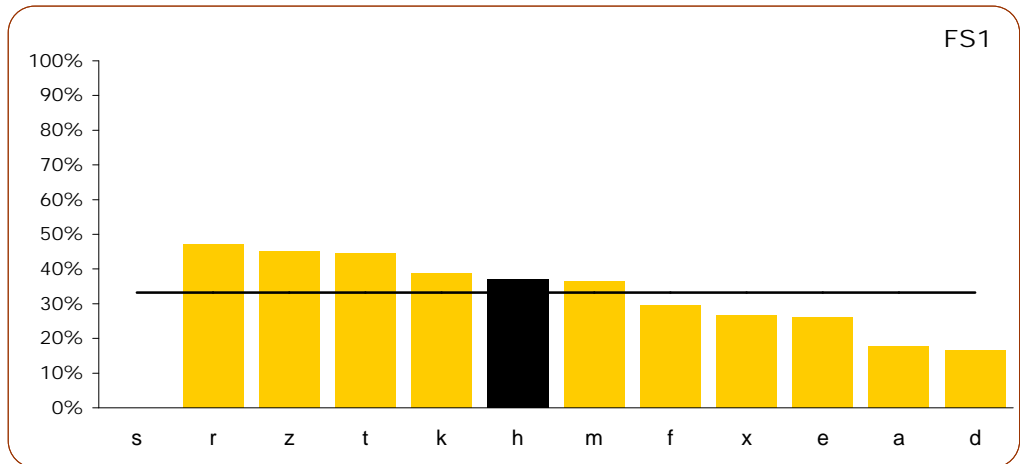
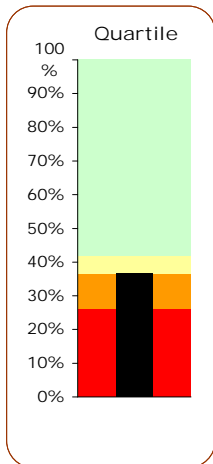
Secondary Indicators

FS1 Professionally qualified finance staff as % total finance staff (FTEs) undertaking reporting, controls and decision support processes (i.e. excludes those staff involved in transactional processes)

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

This indicator assesses the capacity and competency of the finance department by examining the proportion of staff with a professional accountancy qualification.

In most cases organisations would aim for a period-on-period increase in this percentage. Organisations should interpret their achievement against this indicator alongside primary indicator 5 (the commissioner and user satisfaction index) and secondary indicator 2 (the length of time necessary to produce year-end accounts and whether those accounts required qualification).

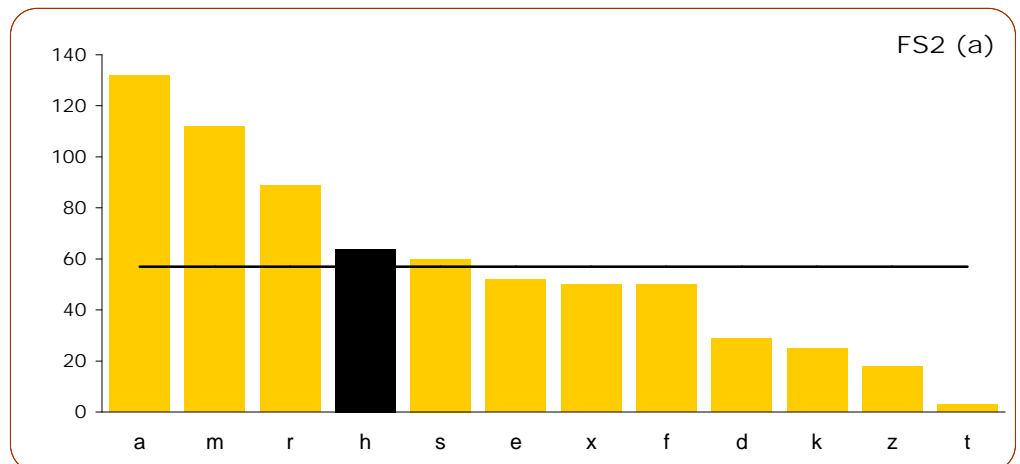
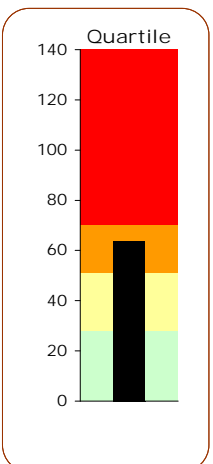


Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
37.0%	33.2%	26.3%	36.5%	41.7%

FS2 (a) Days from date of year-end to submission of audited accounts

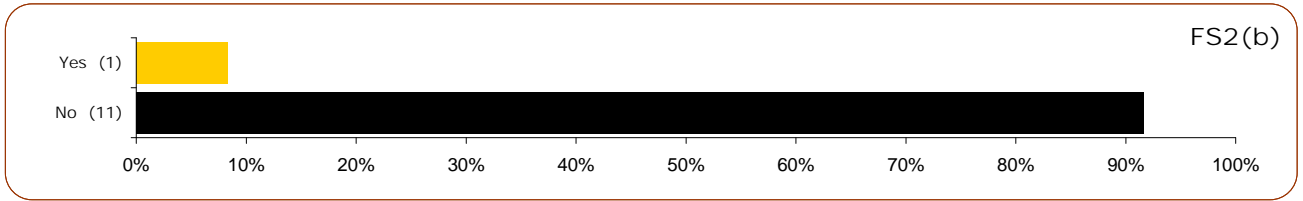
Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

This indicator examines the effectiveness of the finance function by assessing their ability to produce a timely and accurate set of final audited accounts. Date of year-end to submission of audited accounts varies both across organisations and sectors. It will be appropriate to compare with similar type organisations. In most circumstances organisations should aim to both reduce the number of days taken to prepare their year-end accounts and ensure that they do not require external qualification.



Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
64	57	28	51	70

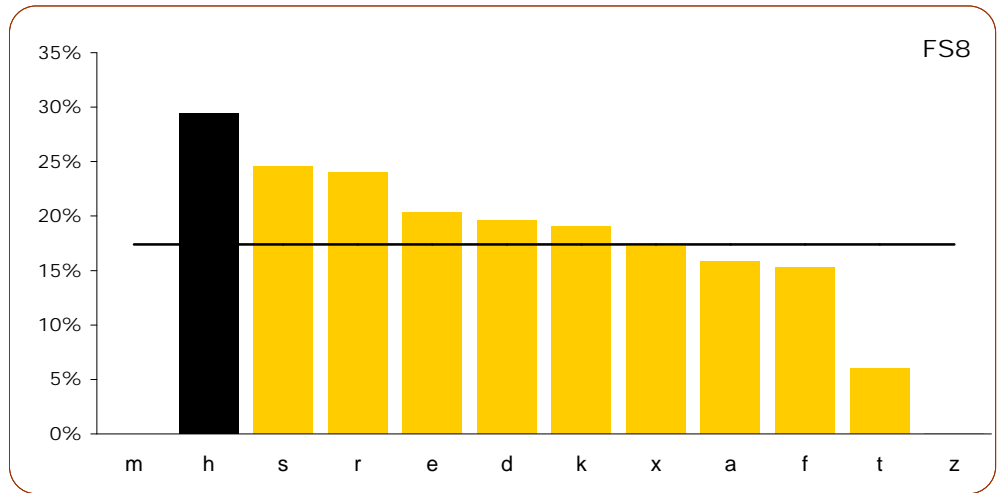
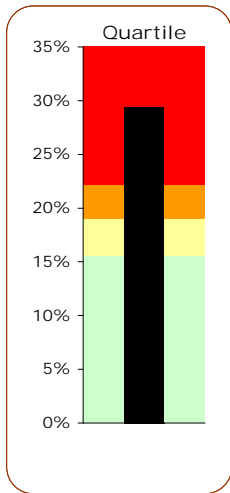
FS2(b) Was the last set of accounts qualified by external audit?



FS8 % outstanding debt that is more than 90 days old from date of invoice

Rationale and expected impact on behaviour

This indicator examines the ability of the finance department to recover outstanding debts from customers. We have adopted the commonly used 90-day credit period as the basis for the indicator. Organisations should aim to achieve a period-on-period reduction in the proportion achieved for this indicator. This indicator should be used in tandem with Secondary Indicator 4.



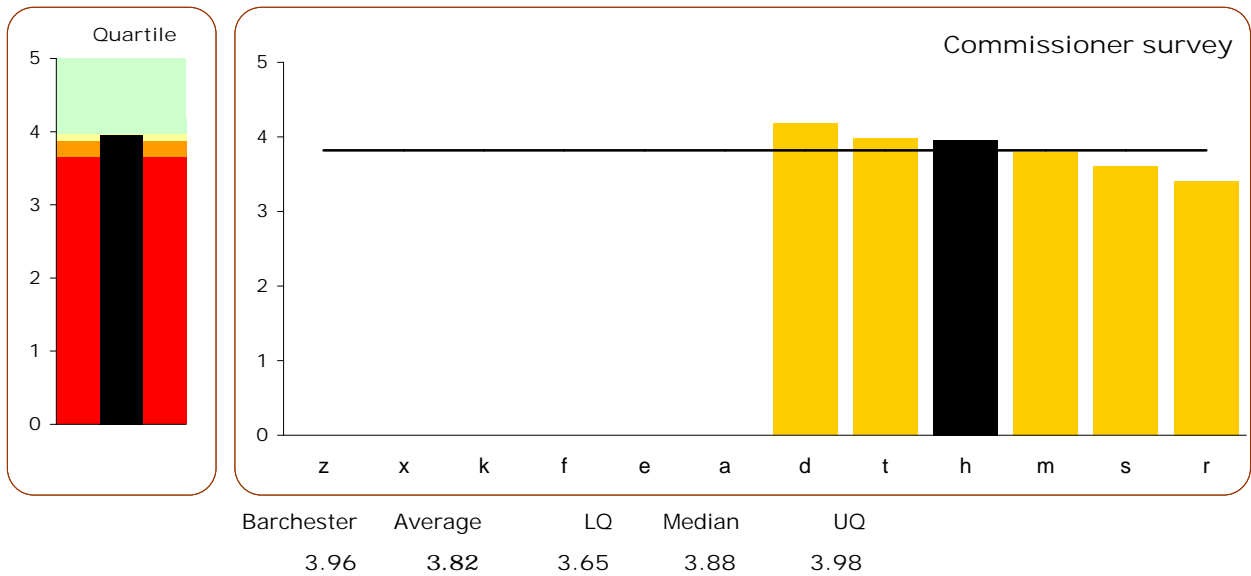
Barchester	Average	LQ	Median	UQ
29.4%	17.4%	15.6%	19.1%	22.1%

Section 3 - SATISFACTION

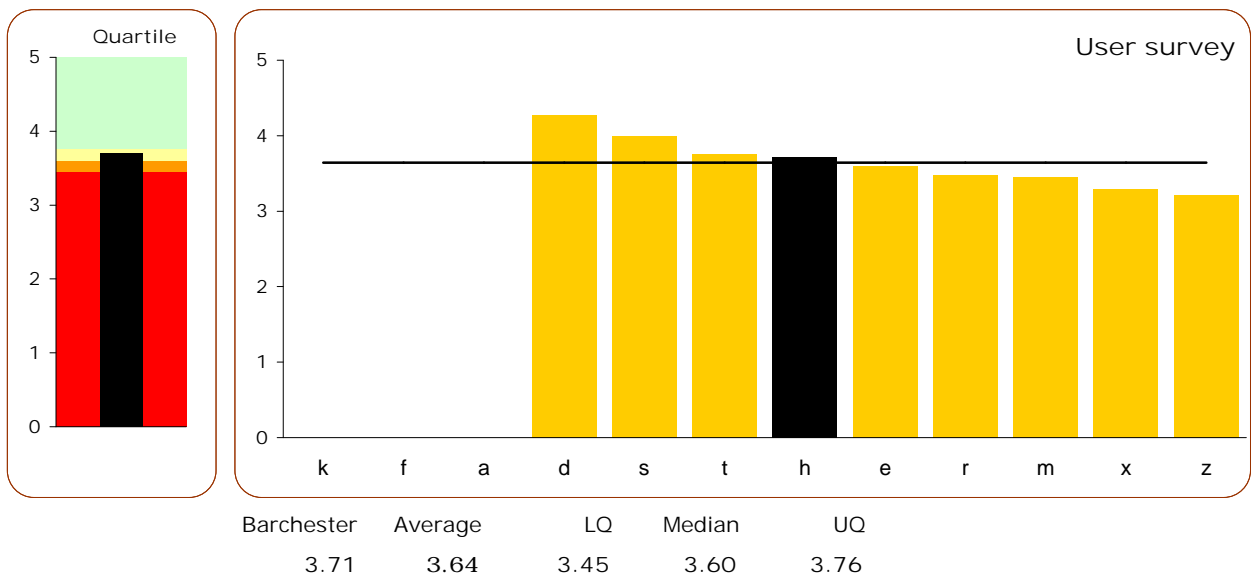
Rationale and expected impact on behaviour
 This indicator examines the effectiveness of the finance function by assessing the perceptions of its commissioners and users. The indicators have been identified because they are considered to indicate whether the function communicates effectively with its commissioners and users, and is responsive to the requirements of the organisation.
 Over time, organisations should seek to increase the proportion of commissioners and users agreeing with the statements.

Please note if you are using the online surveys we will complete this section for the final reports.

FP5(a) Commissioner satisfaction average score



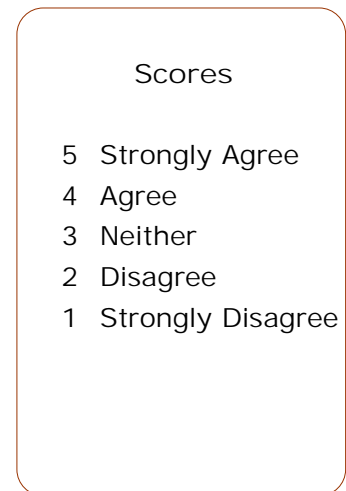
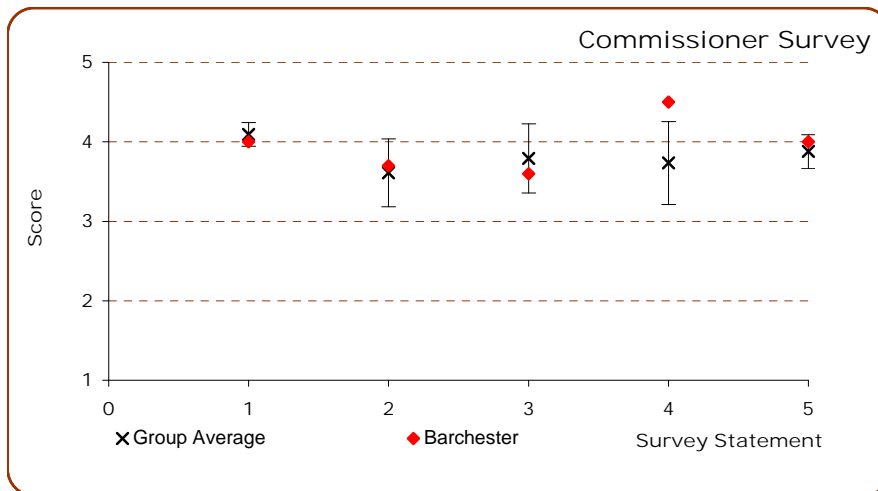
FP5(b) User satisfaction average score



Analysis of individual statement scores

These charts show the average performance scores for all participants as black x's. The black error bars show one standard deviation either side of the mean. Approximately 65 - 70% of the organisations will fall within this range. The red diamond is the average score for your organisation.

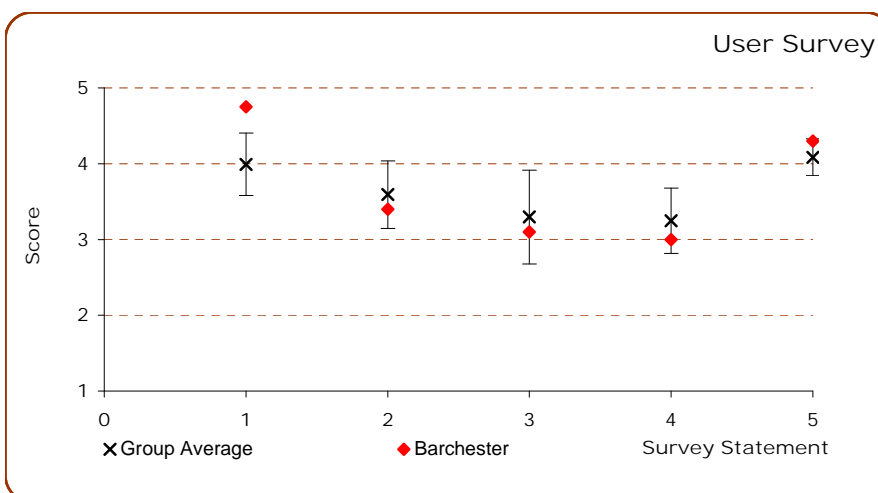
Commissioner Survey



Survey Statements

- The Finance function supports the financial implications of the organisation's strategy, policy and delivery discussions by providing effective support and challenge.
- The financial information provided for financial planning and management is accurate, timely and easy to access.
- The organisation's financial systems are secure and efficient.
- The Finance function proactively anticipates my needs.
- The Finance function provides value for money.

User Survey



Survey Statements

- Finance regularly provides the information needed to understand the level of delivery in my area of responsibility and the related cost.
- Finance policies and procedures are clear and understandable.
- The organisation has clear and easy to use financial systems.
- Appropriate financial management training for non-finance staff is provided.
- I know who to contact if I have a query regarding finance.

Section 4 - MANAGEMENT PRACTICE INDICATORS

FP6 CIPFA Financial Management Model

This indicator was intended primarily for Central Government Bodies

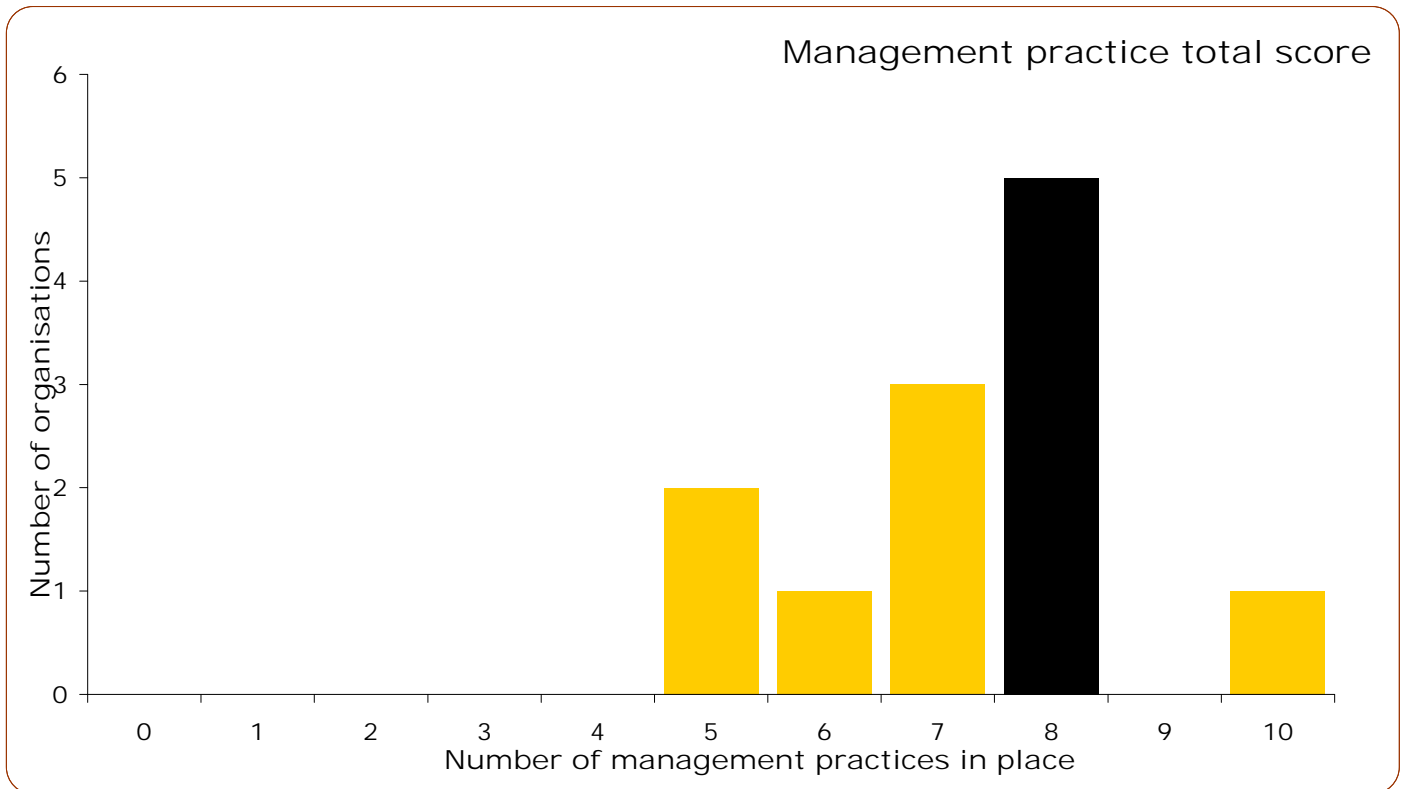


These charts show the average performance scores for all participants as black x's. The black error bars show one standard deviation either side of the mean. Approximately 65 - 70% of the organisations will fall within this range. The red diamond is the average score for your organisation.

(Care should be taken when interpreting these results as they are based on a very small sample size)

FP7 Modern Management Practices

This indicator was intended primarily for Non-Central Government Bodies

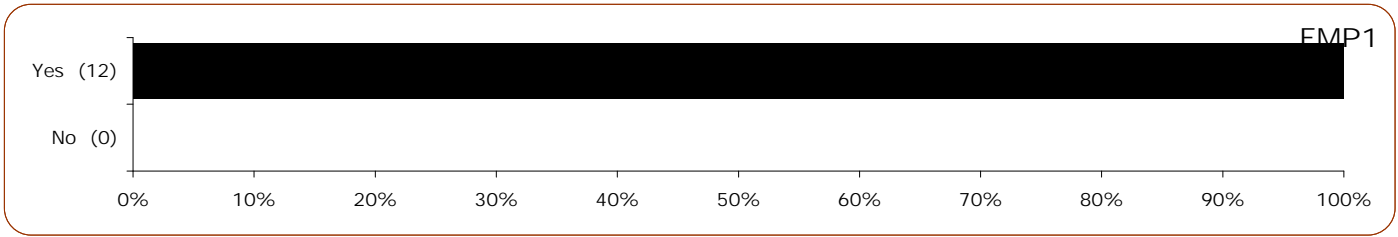


Barchester 8 Average 7 LQ 7 Median 8 UQ 8

	Barchester	Yes	No	% Yes	% No
FMP1	Yes	12	0	100.0%	0.0%
FMP2	No	6	6	50.0%	50.0%
FMP3	Yes	11	1	91.7%	8.3%
FMP4	Yes	12	0	100.0%	0.0%
FMP5	Yes	10	2	83.3%	16.7%
FMP6	Yes	9	3	75.0%	25.0%
FMP7	Yes	9	3	75.0%	25.0%
FMP8	Yes	7	5	58.3%	41.7%
FMP9	No	4	8	33.3%	66.7%
FMP10	Yes	7	5	58.3%	41.7%

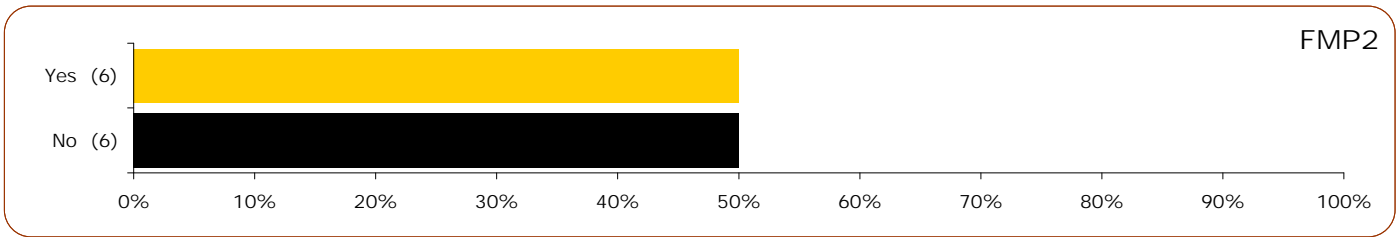
FMP1

The responsibilities of budget holders are clearly understood and embedded in performance appraisal.



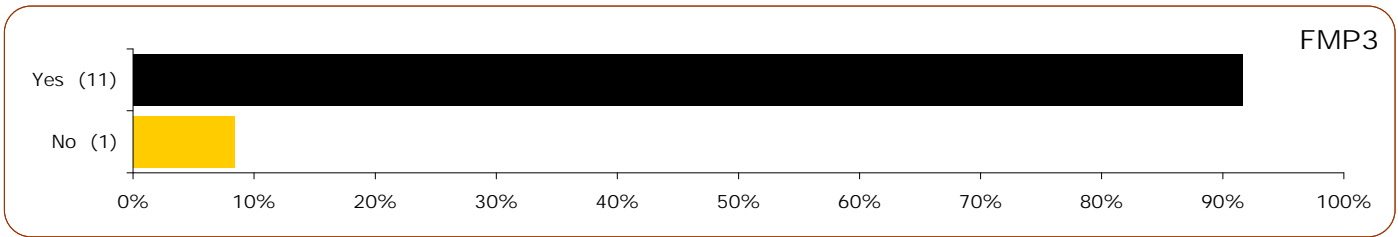
FMP2

Service levels and expectations have been set with key internal customers using a documented approach such as an SLA or Customer Charter, with regular service review meetings held.



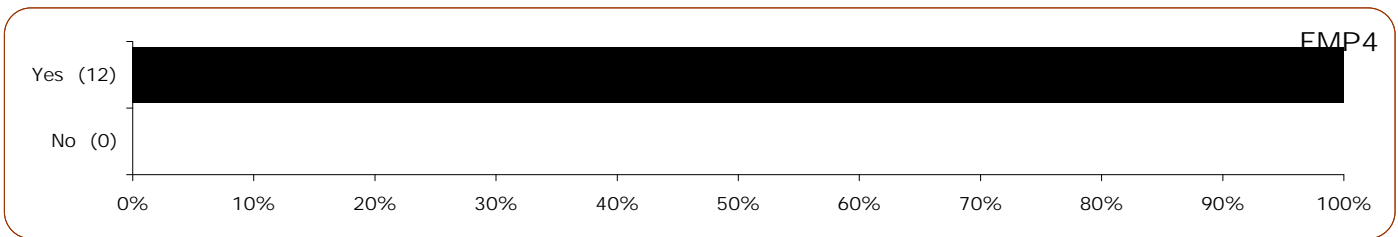
FMP3

A rolling programme of reviewing and benchmarking the organisation's costs is in place across major service areas.



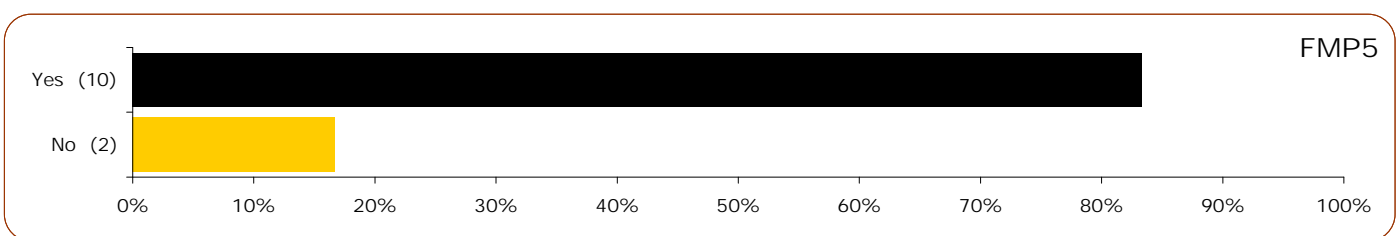
FMP4

Standardised organisation-wide integrated software is in place with centralised data processing. This should cover as a minimum purchase to payment of supplier and invoice to cash receipt from a customer.



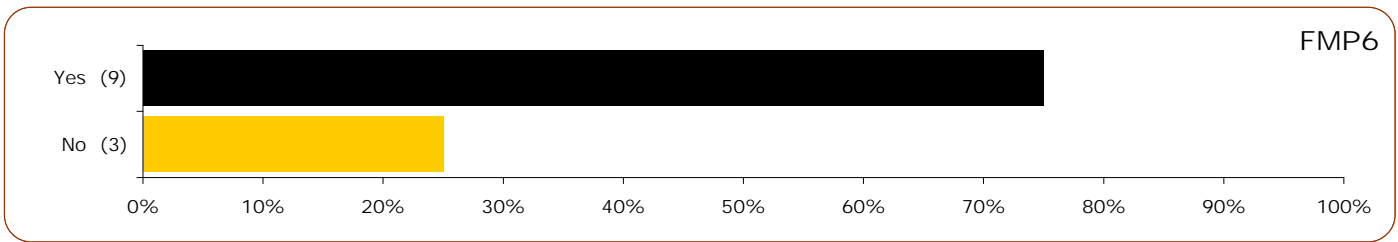
FMP5

The organisation can demonstrate that it has used at least two of the following to stream-line financial processes in the last 3 years; a) bar coding, b) invoice scanning/imaging, c) workflow, d) web technologies to build extranets with external stakeholders, e) intranet to build self service capabilities for staff to check status, run reports, f) on-line travel and expense system used by claimants that is fully integrated with the accounting system.



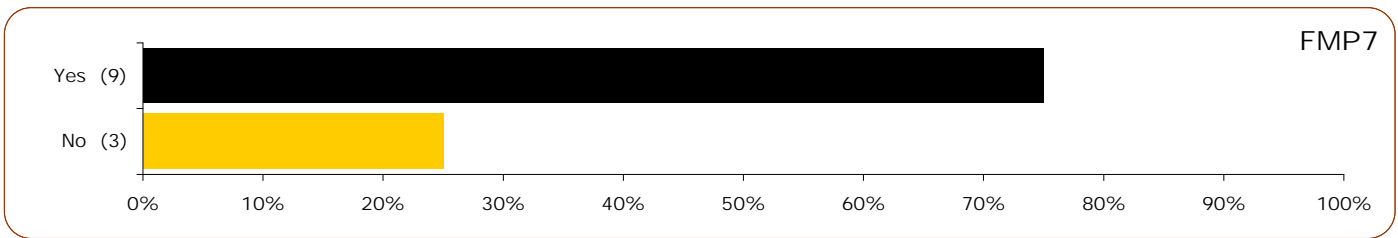
FMP6

Fully automated accruals system based on purchase order and good/services received information held within a fully integrated accounting system.



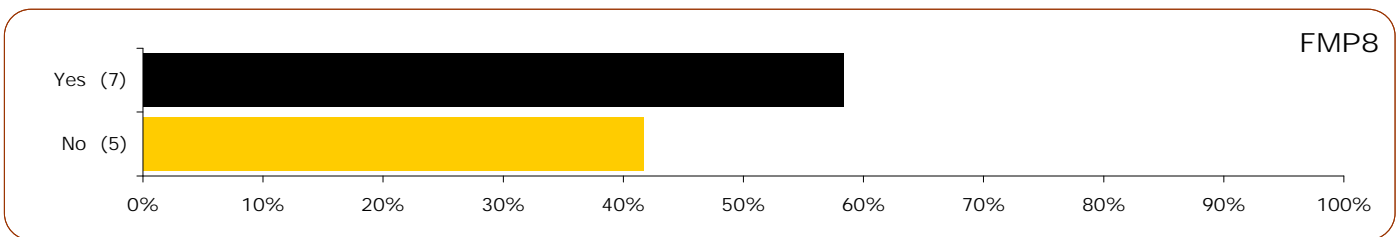
FMP7

Budget holders have on-line, real-time insight into the status of their budget and can run standard financial and manpower reports through their desk top PC.



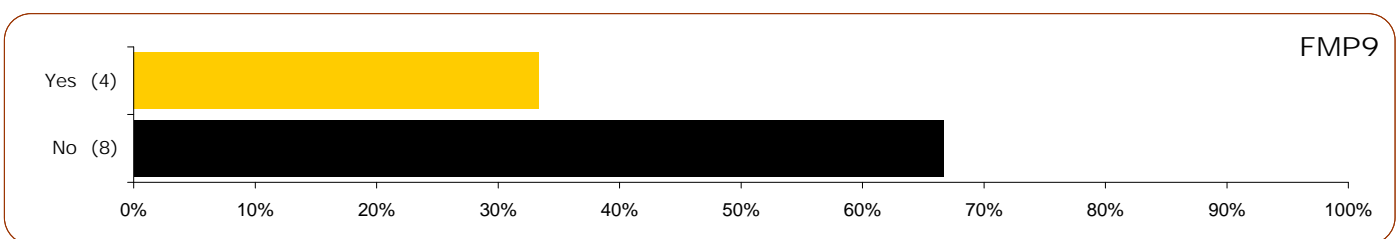
FMP8

A needs based budget based on activity levels rather than historical baselines, is prepared at least every 3 years.



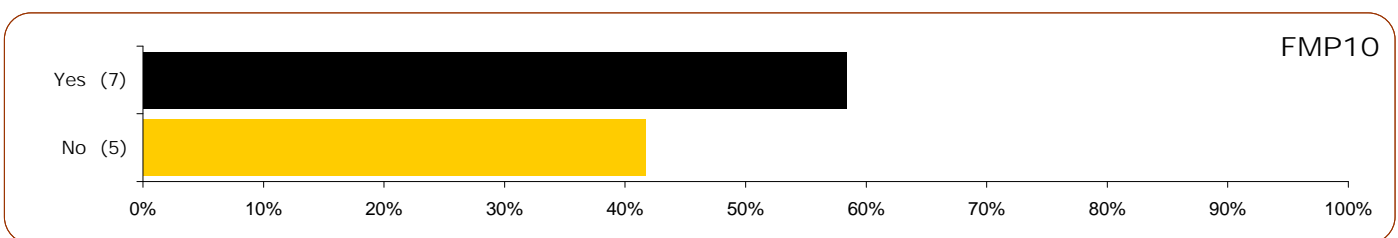
FMP9

Customer satisfaction surveys are conducted at least annually with results openly published and acted upon.



FMP10

A comprehensive professional development programme is in place for Finance staff which ensures that they receive at least 5 days of continuing professional development per annum.



Section 5 - TABULAR DATA

		Barchester	Average	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Primary Indicators						
FP1	Cost of the Finance function as a percentage of organisational running costs (expenditure)	2.4%	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%	2.0%
FP1(a)	Cost of transaction processing as a proportion of the finance function	29%	31%	27%	29%	38%
FP1(b)	Cost of business decision support as a proportion of the cost of the finance function	39%	34%	26%	36%	39%
FP1(c)	Cost of reporting and control as a proportion of the cost of the finance function	32%	35%	30%	32%	36%
FP2	Cycle time in working days from period-end closure to the distribution of routine financial reports to all budget managers and overseeing boards and committees	15	9	5	8	11
FP3	% of variation between the forecast outturn and the actual outturn at month 12 (absolute values)	3.6%	2.9%	0.7%	1.4%	3.2%
FP4	Percentage of public sector organisation spend for which there are fully costed outputs which are measured by key performance metrics and for which a named individual is accountable	40%	81%	70%	90%	100%
Secondary Indicators						
FS1	Professionally qualified finance staff as a percentage of total finance staff (FTEs) undertaking reporting, controls and decision support processes (i.e. excludes those staff involved in transactional processes)	37.0%	33.2%	26.3%	36.5%	41.7%
FS2(a)	Cycle time in days from date of year-end to submission of audited accounts	64	57	28	51	70
FS2(b)	Were the last set of accounts qualified by external audit?	No	Yes 1	No 11	% Yes 8%	% No 92%
FS3	Cost of Customer Invoicing function per customer invoice processed	£8.65	£9.09	£5.11	£8.65	£9.74
FS4	Debtors days	45.6	42.1	27.7	38.6	44.6
FS5	Credit notes as % of total customer invoices raised	8.0%	5.0%	3.5%	4.4%	6.9%
FS6	Cost of Accounts Payable per accounts payable invoice processed	£4.89	£4.40	£2.84	£3.92	£5.14
FS7	Proportion of all payments made by electronic means	90.9%	84.8%	84.1%	90.9%	96.0%
FS8	Proportion of outstanding debt that is more than 90 days old from date of invoice	29.4%	17.4%	15.6%	19.1%	22.1%
FS9(a)	% invoices for commercial goods & services paid by the organisation within 10 days of receipt	76.0%	63.3%	47.1%	68.1%	79.0%
FS9(b)	% invoices for commercial goods & services paid by the organisation within 30 days of receipt or within the agreed payment terms	95.0%	93.5%	93.7%	97.0%	98.3%
FS10	Cost of Payroll Admin per employee paid	£117.03	£79.90	£55.63	£67.75	£105.93