

1. What is your annual IT Infrastructure Budget for 2016, 2017 & 2018?

The EA annual IT infrastructure budget for 2016/17 was £200K (Capital). Additionally, there are other services within the wider EA that hold budgets for the replacement of desktops which fail, laptops, printers and other equipment which are not centrally funded. The EA has not been allocated a budget for 2017-18.

2. What storage vendor(s) and model do you currently use?

The Education Authority was established on 1st April 2015 and replaces the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs). Each ELB had their own storage facilities. Vendors include Fujitsu, HP and Dell. The models vary.

3. When was the installation date of above storage vendor(s)? (Month/year)

The date of each storage device varies depending upon the previous organisations refresh cycle. The age of the devices are typically between 3 and 7 years.

4. When is your planned (or estimated) storage refresh date? (Month/year)

The EA is considering a consolidated storage and server strategy. Work is anticipated to begin by April 2017.

5. What is your estimated budget for the refresh?

The budget for this work will be informed by the work on the proposals for consolidation.

6. What is the capacity of the storage data in TB?

This is not possible to answer precisely – approximately 190TB.

7. The total number of IT staff employed by the organization:

Currently 53 in corporate ICT, although there are other staff who provide IT support embedded in other business areas.

8. Please list and provide contact details for the IT senior management team including CIO, IT Director and Infrastructure Architects if applicable:

CIO (John Jennings, John.jennings@eani.org.uk, acting), Assistant IT Director – currently recruiting, (Joyce Bill, Director for Finance & IT, Joyce.Bill@eani.org.uk).

Infrastructure Architects – none.

9. Please confirm if you are utilising desktop virtualisation technologies and if so how many users do you provide services for?

No.

10. What backup software do you use?
Appasure, legacy implantations on ArcServe.
11. How much data do you backup in TB?
The EA has Appasure capacity for approximately 200TB of data.
Number of servers?
Approximately 460.
12. What operating system(s) do you use?
Primarily Windows Server 2008, with significant numbers of Server 2012 and some Server 2003.
13. Number of virtualised servers?
150.
14. What percentage of your environment is virtualised?
40%.
15. If you outsource your IT works, please provide who it is with and when the contract started and ends.
Corporate ICT is not outsourced.
16. Please also name all of the IT re-sellers that you work with and buy from, as well as the frameworks that you use for the release of any tenders etc.

We potentially avail of all frameworks published on the Crown Commercial Services. The five legacy Education and Library Boards could also run procurements or tenders. Therefore the volume of possible IT re-sellers renders this question unanswerable as it exceeds the appropriate limit for responding to an FOI request under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. The time involved in responding to question 16 has been determined as extensive as it involves collating information from 5 legacy organisations over an indeterminable period of time. This would involve determining whether information is held, locating, retrieving, and extracting the information and considering any third party obligations.
17. Please also approximate the time spent managing your IT systems, specifically storage, per week in the unit of man hours. Also approximate the amount of time taken carving out LUNs and/or Volumes.

This information is not recorded and cannot be meaningfully estimated.
18. Please list any and all pain points that the IT teams, and organisation as a whole, experience with regard to the storage and usage of the virtualised workloads.

The term Pain Point is open to interpretation, and dependent upon the user.
19. How is your storage connected, i.e. via Fibre Channel, Ethernet (NFS or iSCSI). If your storage is currently connected via Fibre Channel, do you have access to 10 GB Ethernet, or 1 GB ethernet, and if so, please declare which?

The connectivity is roughly a 50/50 mix of fibre channel and iSCSI. The majority of iSCSI is 1Gb.