

# Data Maturity Assessment Impact Report 2022

By Libby Harkins & Ben Proctor

Data Orchard CIC

June 2022

info@dataorchard.org.uk

@Data\_Orchard



[www.dataorchard.org.uk/data-maturity-assessment-tool](http://www.dataorchard.org.uk/data-maturity-assessment-tool)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
WHAT WE DID	3
KEY FINDINGS	3
SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS	4
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>APPROACH</b>	<b>5</b>
WHO WAS INVITED?	5
WHAT DID WE ASK THEM?	6
PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS	6
<b>RESULTS: 2022</b>	<b>7</b>
USEFULNESS	7
BENCHMARKING	7
EXPECTATION VS REALITY	8
LIKELIHOOD TO RECOMMEND	8
FREE INDIVIDUAL VERSION - NOT-FOR-PROFIT USERS	10
PAID-FOR ORGANISATIONAL VERSION - NOT-FOR-PROFIT USERS	14
MOTIVATIONS	14
OUTCOMES	15
SUPPORT PROVIDERS ANALYSIS	18
<b>RESULTS: COMPARISON TO 2020 IMPACT RESULTS</b>	<b>19</b>
NOT-FOR-PROFIT USERS	19
SUPPORT PROVIDERS	22
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>23</b>
USERS OF THE FREE INDIVIDUAL VERSION	23
USERS OF THE PAID-FOR ORGANISATIONAL VERSION	23
SUPPORT PROVIDERS	24
COMPARISON TO 2020 IMPACT RESULTS	24
OVERALL	24
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>25</b>
DATA MATURITY FRAMEWORK	25
DATA MATURITY ASSESSMENT TOOL	25
THEORY OF CHANGE	26

## Executive Summary

The results of Data Orchard's 2022 Impact Analysis of the Data Maturity Assessment Tool were similar to the 2020 findings: The tool is regularly used for learning about data maturity, and taking an assessment is often a catalyst for discussion with colleagues which can lead to further action.

In this report we look at the results from this year's Impact Analysis. We also compare this year's results to the 2020 findings and reflect on what this means.

### What we did

We invited 707 users of our Data Maturity Assessment Tool to complete a user feedback survey, targeting those who had taken an assessment between November 2020 and March 2022. We invited users of the free Individual version of our tool and the project lead at each organisation that had undertaken an assessment using the paid-for Organisational version. The free Individual version of the tool is an online assessment that anyone can take for free. The data maturity score is based on that individual's responses. The Organisational version is an online assessment, where multiple people within an organisation take the assessment, and the results are compiled into an organisational report. See the appendix for more detail about the different versions of Data Orchard's Data Maturity Assessment Tool.

We asked about users' experience of taking a data maturity assessment and any benefits they experienced or actions they took as a result of taking an assessment. We received 70 complete responses in total.

### Key Findings

- People, commonly, take a data maturity assessment - at least in part - to learn more about data maturity. When they have taken a data maturity assessment, they are likely to agree that they have learned about data maturity
- Taking a data maturity assessment prompts sharing and discussions about data within organisations
- When people, following a data maturity assessment, try to secure financial resources to implement improvements they are almost always successful (both Individual and Organisational users)
- Around 40% of organisations go on to implement a data strategy after taking an assessment (both Individual and Organisational users)
- Overall findings are similar to our previous impact survey results from 2020
- Organisational Data Maturity Assessments appear to have more extensive benefits than Individual Data Maturity Assessments

## Summary of conclusions

Most users of the free Individual version of the tool were able to gain an objective reflection of where they are at and engaged in discussions with colleagues after taking the assessment. We see this as an important first step to improving data maturity. Many went on to take further actions and see more benefits.

Many of the patterns we see in users of the Organisational version of the of the Data Maturity Assessment Tool are similar to that of users of the free Individual version. Most users of Organisational version experienced all the benefits we asked about at least '*moderately*'. Furthermore, many more benefits were experienced '*extensively*', compared to free Individual version users.

Throughout this report we also looked at the responses of support providers (organisations that support non-profits to assess and improve their data maturity). No strong conclusions could be made from this based on the small sample size (five respondents).

Overall the results found were largely what we expected, based on our theory of change.

We compared the results from the survey to our last impact survey, conducted in 2020, and found a very similar pattern of results. This consistency in findings is promising, as it points towards a reliability in our results.

## Introduction

Data maturity is the organisational journey towards improvement and increased capability in using data. Data Orchard CIC has been researching data maturity since 2015 and has developed both a Data Maturity Framework and Data Maturity Assessment Tool.

Our theory of change suggests that users experience these key problems:

- a lack of knowledge about data maturity (i.e. what good and great looks like)
- a sense of needing to get better but not knowing where to start
- struggling to engage leaders and colleagues in discussions about data or driving improvements

Our theory of change predicts that by taking a data maturity assessment, the user experiences immediate benefits that bring about tangible actions. These actions lead to results that increase data maturity and provide long-term rewards and benefits. See the appendix for more detail about our Data Maturity Framework and theory of change.

In order to test the theory of change, we asked people who had taken a data maturity assessment about their experience and outcomes (changes in attitude, behaviour, skills and knowledge).

## Approach

### Who was invited?

We sent out 707 invites to people who had used our Data Maturity Assessment Tool between 6th November 2020 and 31st March 2022. 21 of these invites were sent to people who were the project leads when their organisation undertook a paid-for Organisational data maturity assessment with us. 686 were sent to users of the free Individual version. In total, we received 70 complete responses.

*Figure 1: Table showing invites and response rate for Individual and Organisational version users*

	Individual	Organisational	Total
Invites Sent	686	21	707
Responses	63	7	70
Response Rate	9.2%	33.3%	9.9%

The overall response rate is 9.9%. The response rate is higher for users of the paid-for Organisational version (33.3%) than users of the free Individual version (9.2%). This response rate is lower than for our previous 2020 impact survey (which was 20% overall).

Respondents who skipped a whole question were excluded from analysis for that question. However, if they partially answered a question they were included with 'unanswered' under the section they did not complete.

## What did we ask them?

We repeated the same online survey used in [our previous Impact Evaluation](#). The survey asked respondents:

- about the context in which they took the data maturity assessment and their motivations for taking an assessment
- about their overall impression of the Data Maturity Assessment Tool
- any immediate benefits they received
- actions they took as a result of using the Data Maturity Assessment Tool
- if they had implemented a data strategy, and any achievements they gained from doing so
- whether they had applied for, or secured, resources to implement improvements

## Profile of Respondents

We asked respondents in what capacity they took the data maturity assessment. Fifty seven respondents said they took it *'For the not-for-profit organisation I work for (e.g. charity, social enterprise, coop, university, public sector organisation)'*, seven of these were users of the Organisational version of the tool. Five took it *'For client organisation/s in the not-for-profit sector (e.g. consultant, data support provider, product/service company)'* and no respondents selected *'For a network/membership/cohort of not-for-profit organisations (e.g. membership/infrastructure organisation, grant maker)'*. Eight specified *'Other'*, which included researching and testing the tool, or deciding if they wanted to use it.

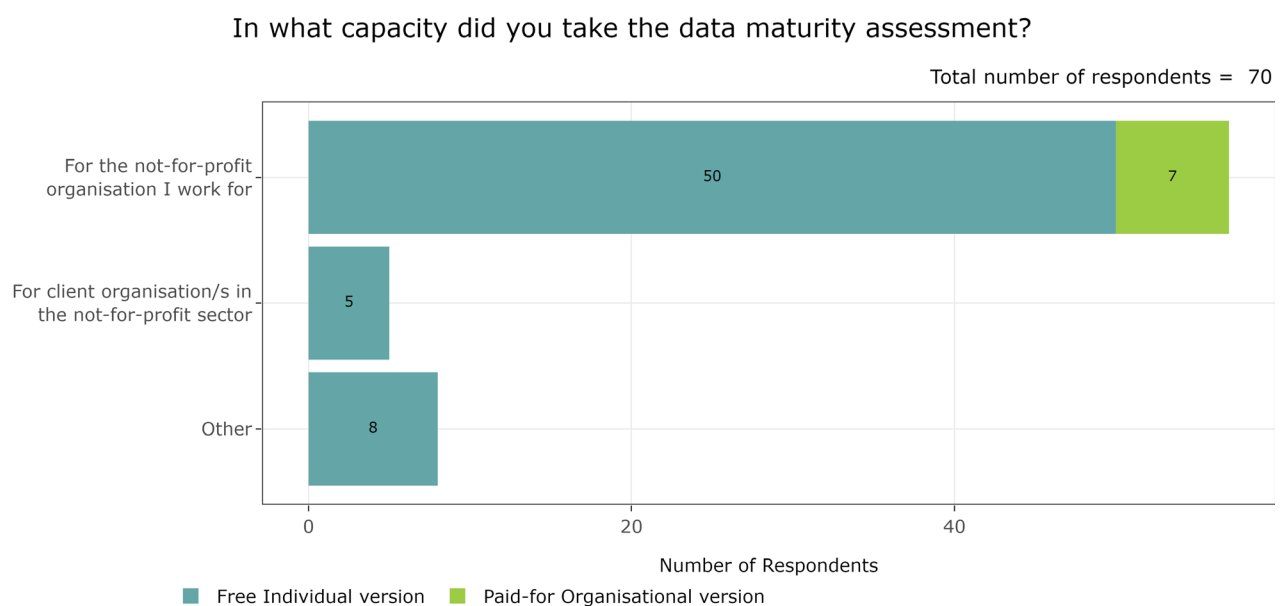


Figure 2: Number of people completing impact survey by user type

## Results: 2022

### Usefulness

All but two respondents said they found the tool at least *'somewhat useful'*. 67% of all respondents said they found the Data Maturity Assessment Tool *'very'* or *'extremely useful'*. No one said they found the Data Maturity Assessment Tool *'not at all useful'*. Of the two respondents who found the tool not so useful:

- one said that they needed more support to fill it out and lack of engagement from leaders led to no action
- the other said that they found the questions irrelevant and hard to answer

How useful did you find the Data Maturity Assessment Tool?

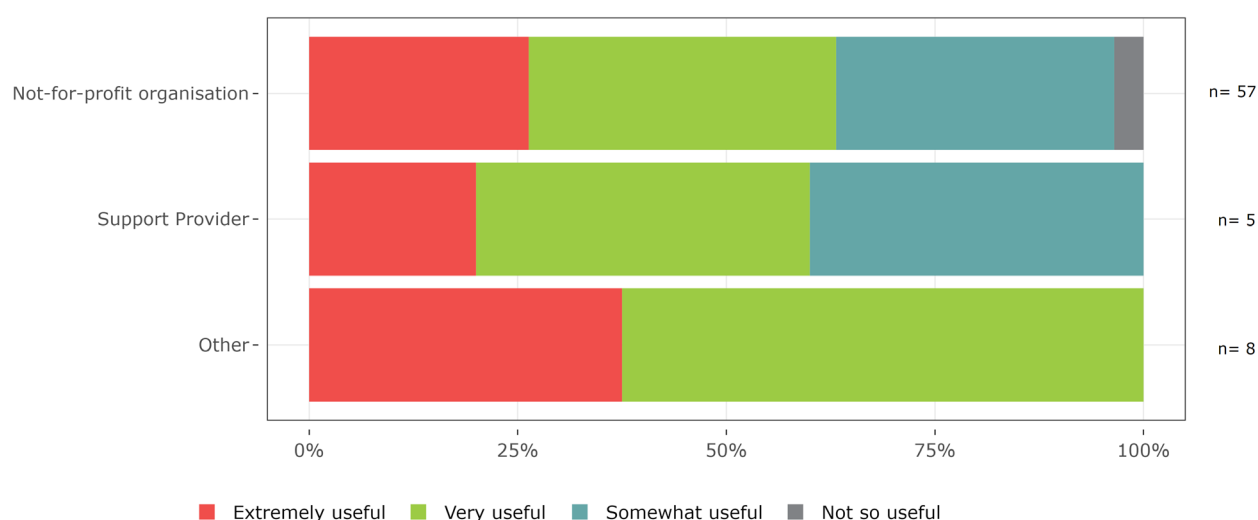


Figure 3: How useful respondents found the Data Maturity Assessment Tool by user type

### Benchmarking

The benchmarking feature held some importance to most users. It was mostly *'somewhat important'*, suggesting that it isn't the driving reason for using the tool. This is supported by the fact that few respondents agreed that comparing their data maturity score to others in the sector was a motivating factor in taking the assessment (see Motivation section).

How important was the benchmarking feature of the tool?

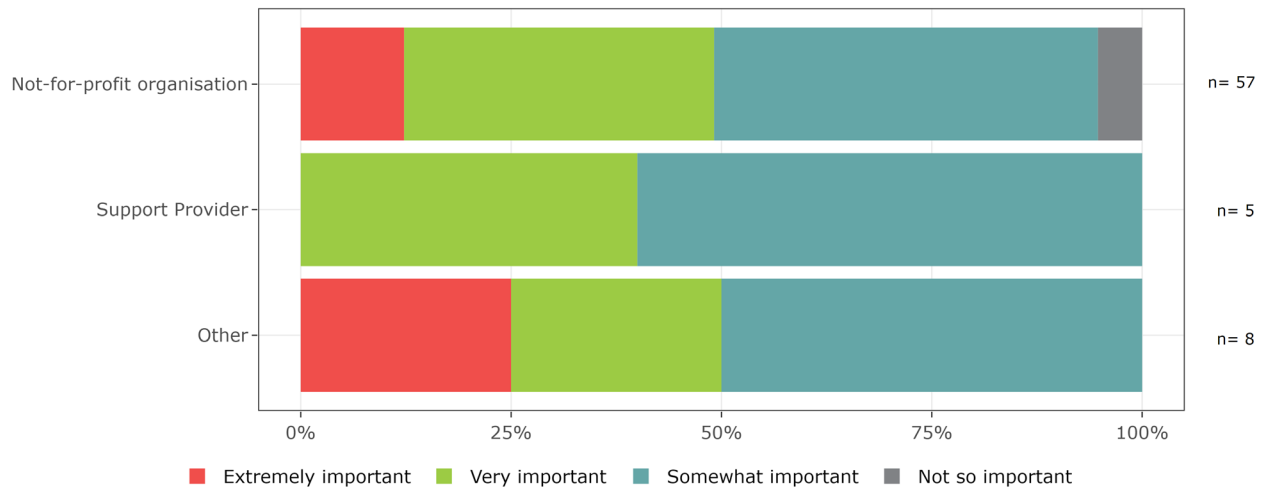


Figure 4: Importance of the benchmarking feature by user type

### Expectation vs reality

Most users from not-for-profit organisations expected their organisation to be either ‘average’ or ‘worse than average’ (76.7%). People generally aren’t taking the assessment because they think they are doing better than others. We see this again when only 4% of not-for-profit users of the free Individual version cite ‘*thought we might be doing quite well compared to others and wanted to check*’ as a motivation for taking the assessment (see Motivation section). Most organisations compared to others in a way the user expected (62.5%).

### Likelihood to recommend

Of 70 people who answered this question, 68% are likely or very likely to recommend Data Orchard’s Data Maturity Assessment Tool. Only 2% are unlikely to do so.



How likely is it that you would recommend the Data Maturity Assessment Tool to another not-for-profit organisation?

Number of respondents = 70

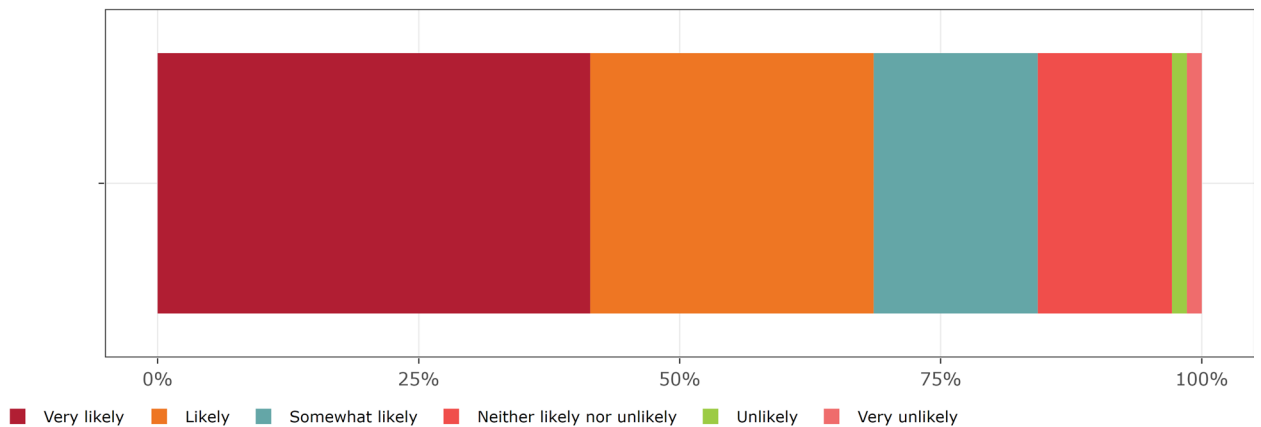


Figure 5: How likely users of the Data Maturity Assessment Tool are to recommend it to others

We asked those who would recommend the tool to give some details about how they have benefited and why they would recommend it. These are some of their responses:

*“It’s accessible, comprehensive and viable for NfPs financially”*

*“It has given us an externally validated way of looking at our data maturity and the results have enabled us to start discussions on a data strategy. We have a good idea of where we need to go and where to prioritise as a result of carrying out the maturity assessment.”*

*“I’m sure my answers will be different in a year, so much has happened over the last two years, but now we have our data being collected in a coordinated and consistent way, I am expecting to see great things! We are already using data to influence our decision making process.”*

*“We shared the results with our leadership team to benchmark transparently where we were at, build a plan to improve based on the results, and advocated for resources to implement our improvement plan. The results pushed our leadership to make progress on our data maturity. We set a target for increasing our data maturity from a 2.1 to a 3.0 in one year, using the assessment as a tool to measure progress, and were able to meet our goal.”*

*“This was a great tool for giving us a shared language to assess and discuss the issues and where we needed to improve. We are struggling to find the right resources to take it forward fully but have implemented key gaps - thank you.”*

Those who were unlikely to recommend the tool expressed a difficulty in understanding where the scores had come from and how they were calculated. It’s worth noting that we do provide [an explanation of how the scores are calculated](#). However better signposting to this information may be helpful, especially for one-off Individual users of the tool.

## Free Individual version - not-for-profit users

This section focuses on analysis of the 50 respondents who used the free Individual version of the Data Maturity Assessment Tool for the not-for-profit organisation they work for. Most not-for-profit users of the free Individual version completed the assessment individually (60%). 26% of users completed it as one of a number of individuals from the same organisation taking the assessment. 14% completed it in a group setting.

Respondents were asked to indicate the nature of their interest in data maturity by selecting from a list. The largest group were Data Champions (36%). There was also a good proportion of Leaders (19%) and Data Strategists (17%). 21% indicated 'other' and provided a range of responses including Data Strategists, an ICT coordinator, and managers of various kinds (Data & Performance, Evaluation & Impact, research leader).

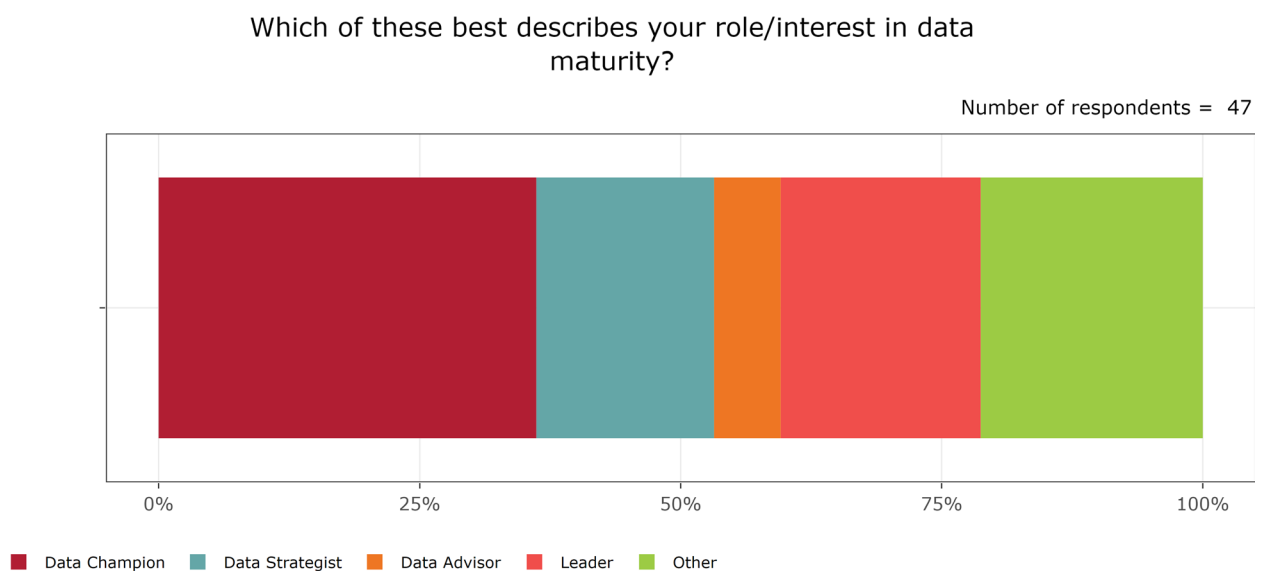


Figure 6: Users by the nature of their interest in data in their organisation

## Motivations

For users of our free Individual version of the tool, the most common motivation for taking the assessment was 'to learn more about data maturity'. The next biggest motivation was 'wanting to get better with data but not knowing where to start'. 'Testing its suitability for colleagues to complete in order to help people in the organisation think/talk about data' was also a popular answer. Other reasons included 'being asked to do it by a colleague' and 'wanting to check how well the organisation is doing'.

Which of these were motivations for taking a data maturity assessment?  
(tick all that apply)

Number of respondents = 50

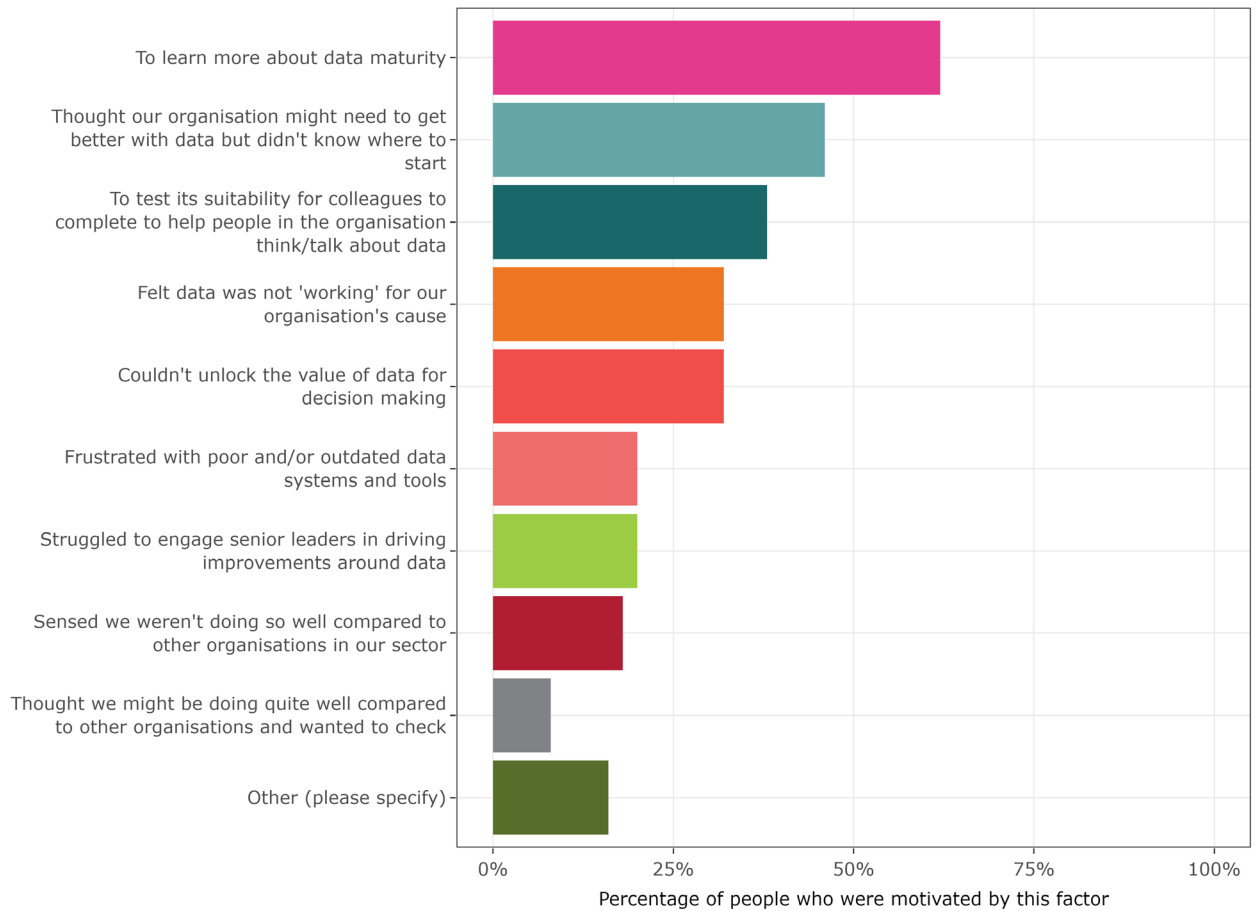


Figure 7: Motivations for taking the data maturity assessment for free Individual version users

**Outcomes**

*Benefits*

The most common benefit cited by users of the free Individual version was *'to gain an objective reflection of where the organisation is at'* (around 80% experience this moderately or extensively). *'Increased motivations and raised aspirations within the organisation'* were also frequently chosen answers, along with *'improved understanding about important factors and questions'*.

### To what extent did you receive the following benefits?

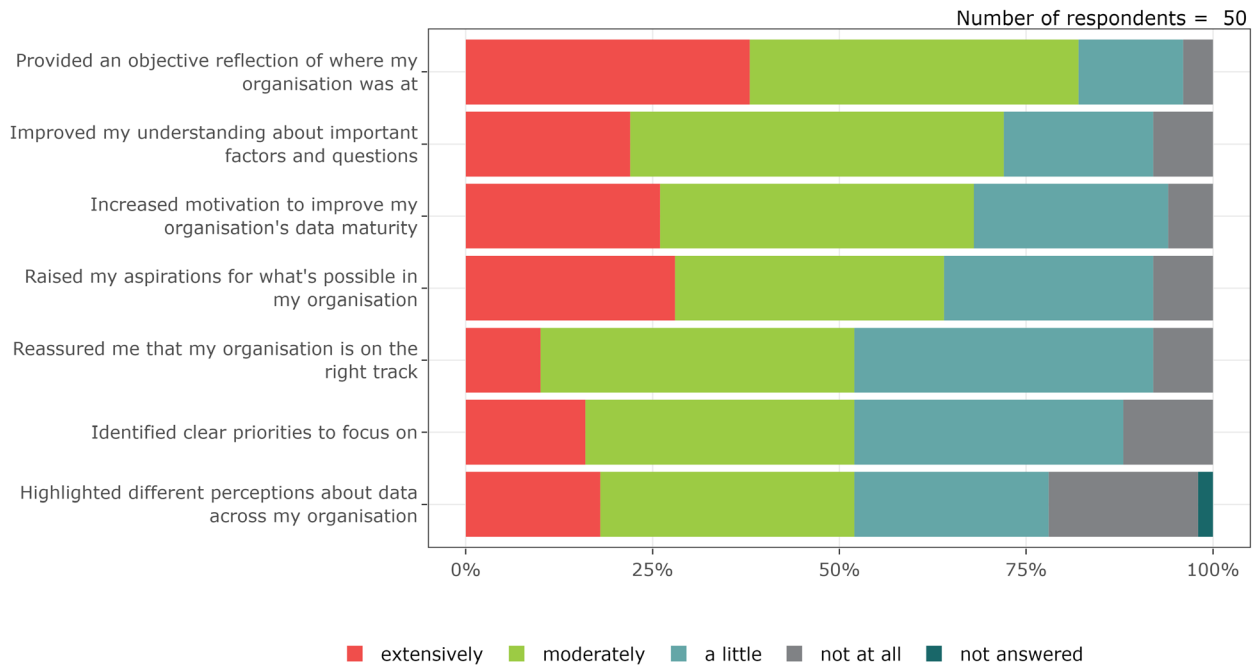


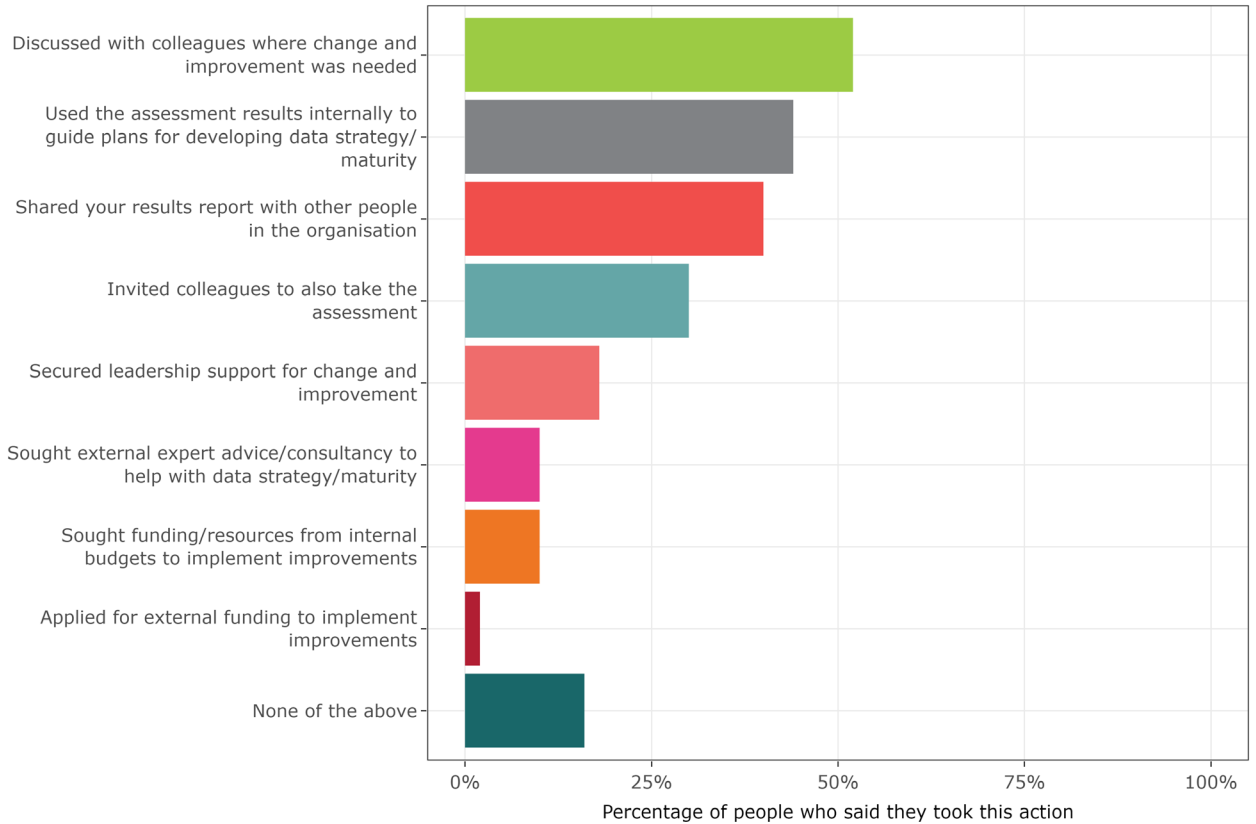
Figure 8: Benefits of taking a data maturity assessment for free Individual version users

#### Actions

The most common action was *'discussing changes with colleagues'*, followed by *'using the results to guide plans'* and *'sharing results with others in the organisation'*. 74% of respondents chose at least one of these three options. 16% didn't do any of the actions we proposed.

Following your data maturity assessment, did you do any of the following?  
(tick all that apply)

Number of respondents = 50



*Figure 9: Actions taken by users of the free Individual version following the data maturity assessment*

Five users (10%) sought internal funding/resources, all five were successful in securing this funding. These resources were generally used for training (60%), new tools (40%), new jobs (60%) and consultancy (40%). One sought external funding but was unsuccessful.

**Impact**

We asked respondents if they had implemented a data strategy/improvement plan since completing the assessment. 21 of the 52 respondents (42%) said they had. These plans resulted in the following achievements:

To what extent have you used data to achieve the following?  
As a result of implementing the data strategy/plan

Number of respondents = 20

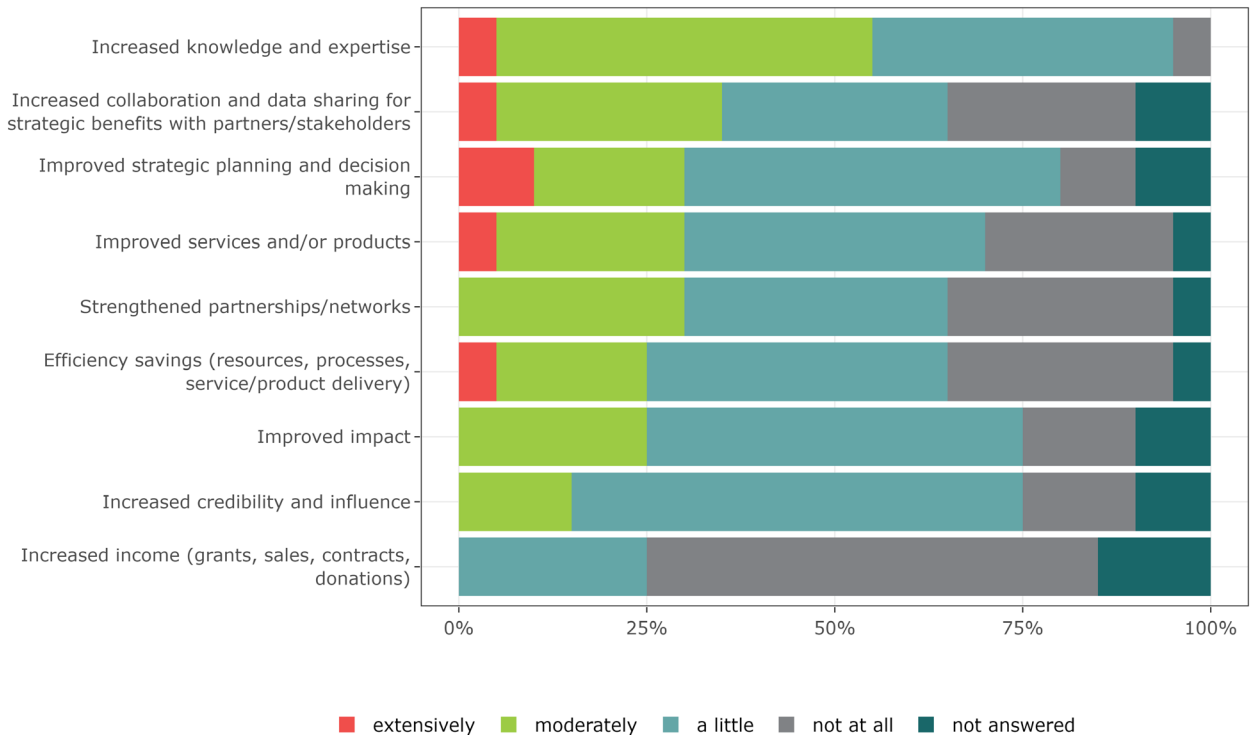


Figure 10: Impacts or achievements resulting from a data maturity assessment for free Individual version users

All achievements, apart from ‘Increased income’, had relatively similar ratings from respondents, with most people experiencing them at least a little. ‘Increased knowledge and expertise’ was the top benefit stated. ‘Increased collaboration and sharing with partners/stakeholders’ and ‘Improved strategic planning and decision making’ were also important, along with ‘Improved services and/or products’ and ‘Strengthened partnerships/networks’.

### Paid-for Organisational version - not-for-profit users

We thought it would be interesting to look at those who undertook a paid-for Organisational assessment separately. These are not-for-profit organisations that conducted an organisation-wide assessment with Data Orchard. Often, but not always, this is alongside other support in getting better with data. Seven organisations who used the paid-for Organisational version of the data maturity assessment responded to our most recent survey. As the sample size is so small, this is an exploratory look at the findings.

### Motivations

Similar to users of the free Individual version of the tool, Organisational version users were motivated by wanting ‘to learn more about data maturity’ and ‘not knowing where to start’. They weren’t as impacted by ‘sensing as though they were doing worse than peers’ or

*'struggling to engage leadership'*. Possibly because, in some cases, a data lead may have already secured a level of support in order to commission an Organisational assessment.

People who chose *'other'* mainly specified *'wanting a baseline or benchmark within their organisation'* and *'to check their progress'*.

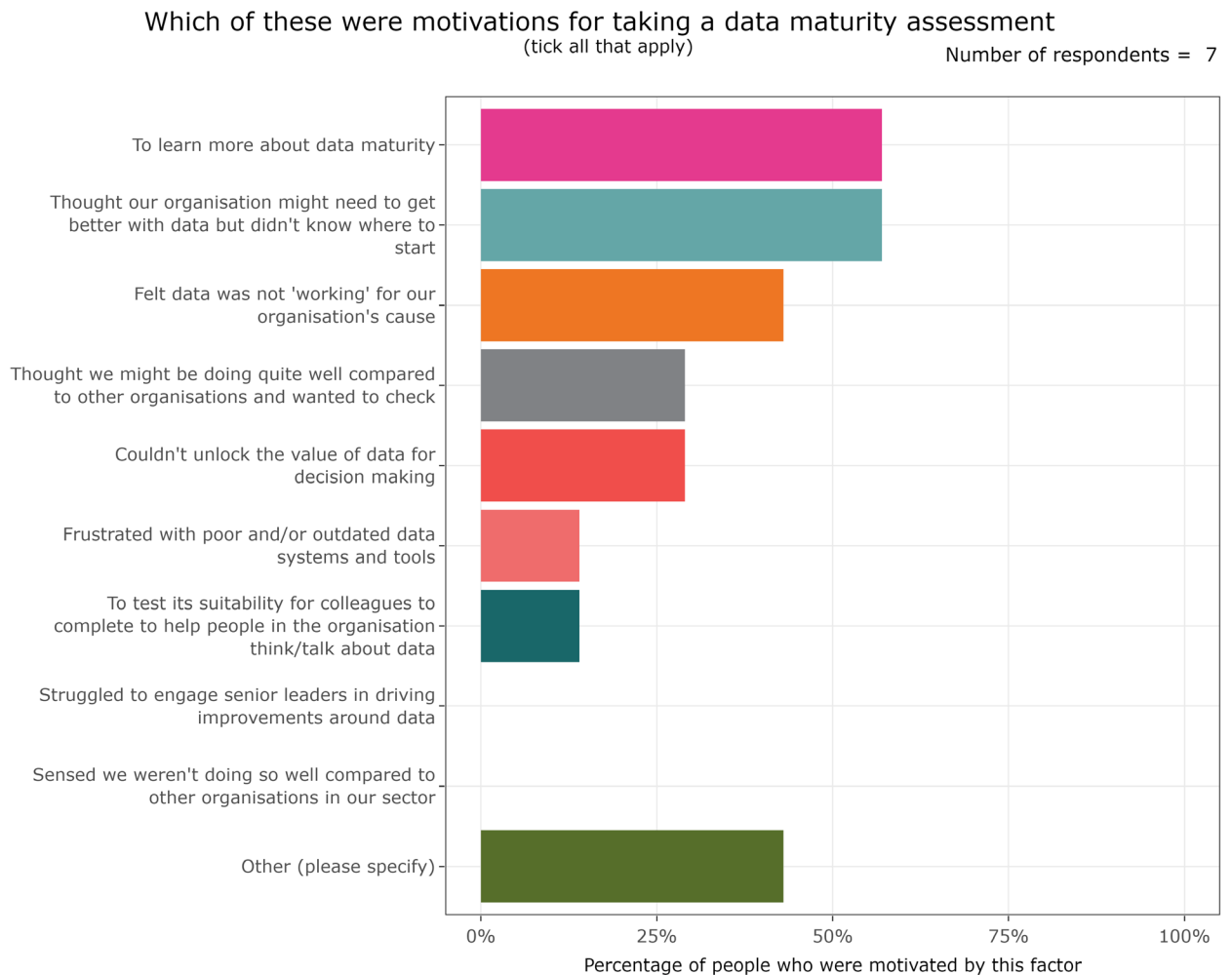


Figure 11: Motivations for paid-for Organisational version users to take a data maturity assessment

## Outcomes

### Benefits

Similar to free users, the top benefits were *'increased motivation'* and *'raised aspirations within the organisation'*, as well as *'highlighting different perceptions'*. Importantly, users of the Organisational version of the tool report experiencing more extensive benefits than the users of the free Individual version. Although there are several reasons this could be, such as:

- They are more invested in data maturity (taken the time and invested resources to do an Organisational assessment)

- Often Organisational assessments are taken within an overall plan to develop a data strategy

To what extent did you receive the following benefits?

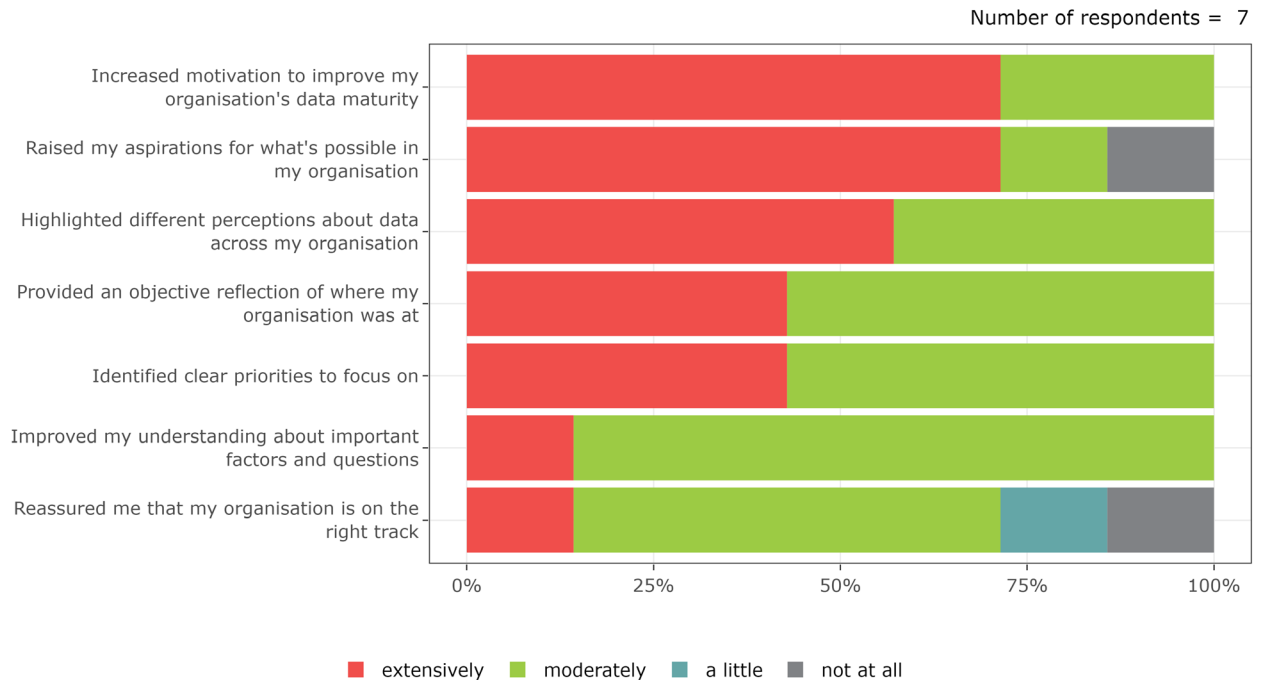


Figure 12: Benefits experienced by organisations after an Organisational data maturity assessment

### Actions

All Organisational version users who answered this question 'shared the results within their organisation'. Six of seven users (86%) went on to 'discuss changes with colleagues', 'secure leadership support' and 'use them to guide plans for a data strategy'. No-one took 'no action'.



Following your data maturity assessment, did you do any of the following?  
(tick all that apply)

Number of respondents = 7

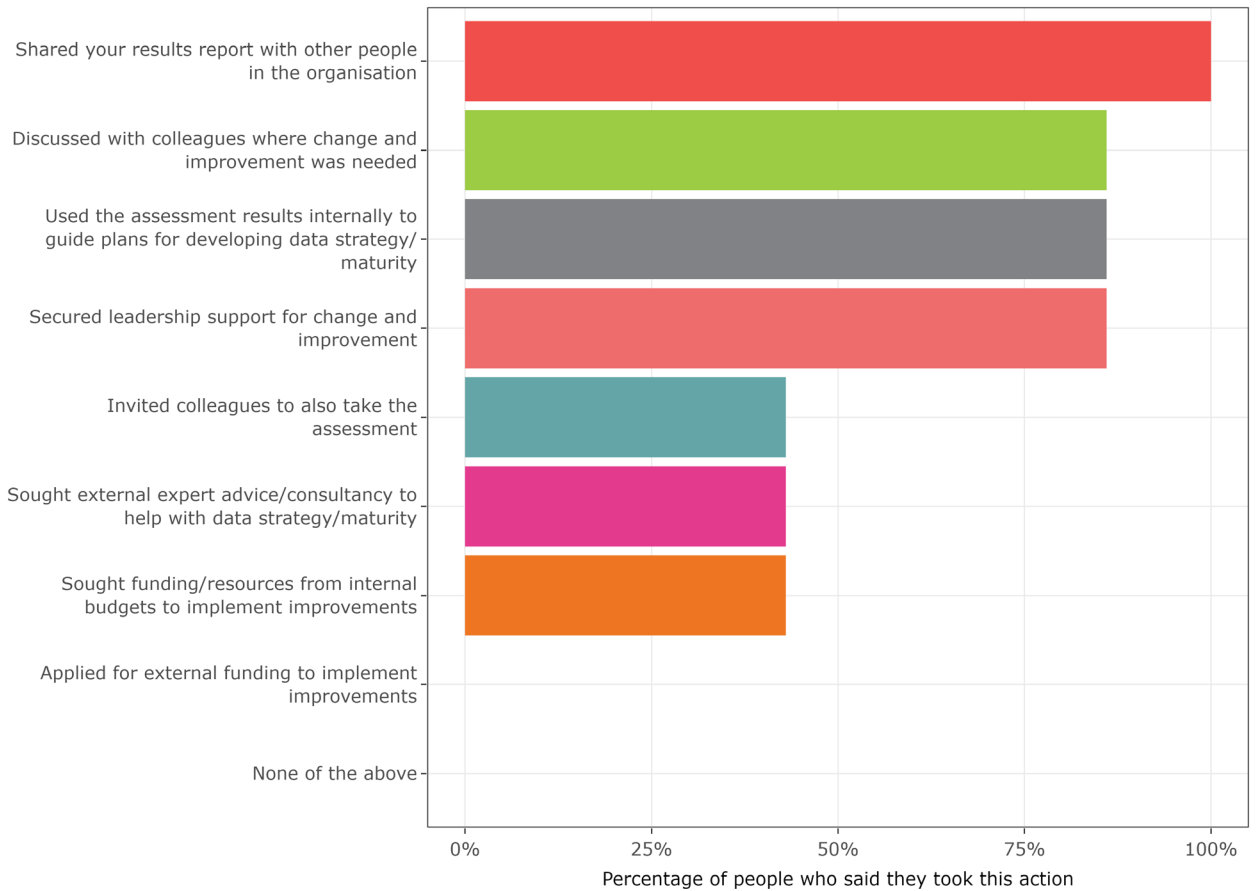


Figure 13: Actions taken by organisational leads following a data maturity assessment

Three organisations sought funding/resources from internal budgets, all were successful. One organisation spent these funds on consultancy/external support, one spent them on new tools and training, and one spent them on new jobs and new roles as well as new tools, training and consultancy/external support.

### Impact

We asked respondents if they had implemented a data strategy/improvement plan since completing the assessment. Of seven respondents, two said they had. As a result of this plan, there were limited achievements, with all achievements rated as being experienced *'moderately'* or *'a little'*. Improved strategic planning, improved services, efficiency savings and improved impact were achieved *'moderately'* by both organisations.

It typically takes some months to devise a data strategy and secure the resources for implementation. Following implementation of a strategy, it then takes even more time to create the change needed to deliver impact. It is therefore not surprising that at this stage (i.e. within 0-17 months of taking an assessment) the long-term impacts are yet to be seen.

## Support providers analysis

Support providers are organisations that support non-profits to assess and improve their data maturity. They may be consultants or infrastructure organisations. Five respondents selected this description for themselves by saying they took the assessment *'For client organisation/s in the not-for-profit sector (e.g. consultant, data support provider, product/service company)'*.

### Motivations

Five support providers responded to the question about their motivations for completing a data maturity assessment:

- Two were motivated by *'testing its suitability for the client to use'* and *'to help clients work out where to start improving'*
- One person was motivated by each of: *'learning more about data maturity'*, *'engaging senior leaders'*, *'demonstrating sector comparison'*, *'diagnosing how they're doing'*, and *'completing the assessment on behalf of their organisation'*
- None were motivated a by *'gaining a baseline to check impact of support'*

### Outcomes

#### Benefits

Benefits for support providers were fairly broad, the two most significant benefits being *'raising awareness of what good practice looks like'* and *'reassurance that they were on the right track in their support or advice for the client'*. No respondents specified any *'other'* benefits they received.

### To what extent did you receive the following benefits?

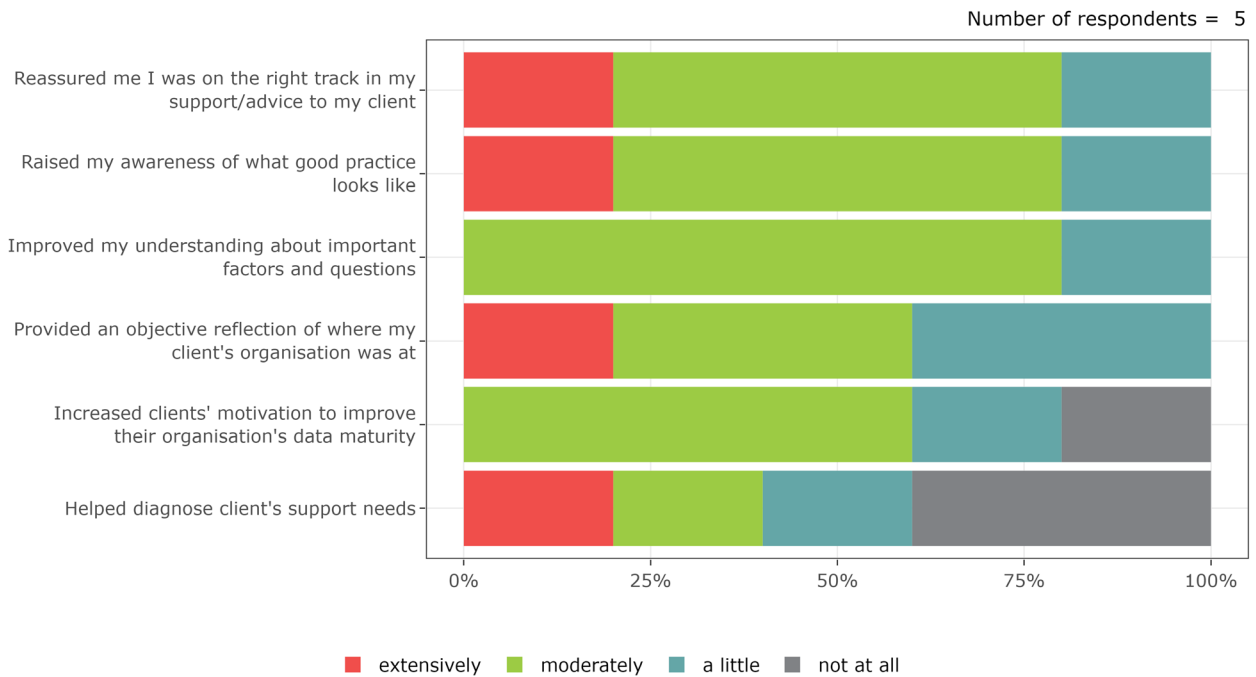


Figure 14: Benefits experienced by support providers

### Actions

Three support providers responded to our question about actions taken after the data maturity assessment:

- two said *'the client invested in training'* and selected nothing else
- one said they *'secured consultancy', 'adopted new tools' and 'created new roles for existing staff'*
- No one said they *'created new jobs', or 'other'*

## Results: comparison to 2020 impact results

### Not-for-profit users

Overall, the results from not-for profit users this year are very similar to those for our previous 2020 impact evaluation.

In 2020, a higher portion of respondents were motivated by:

- frustrations with poor systems and tools
- struggling to engage leadership
- sensing they're not doing so well compared to others.

This year, more people stated 'other' motivations for taking the assessment.

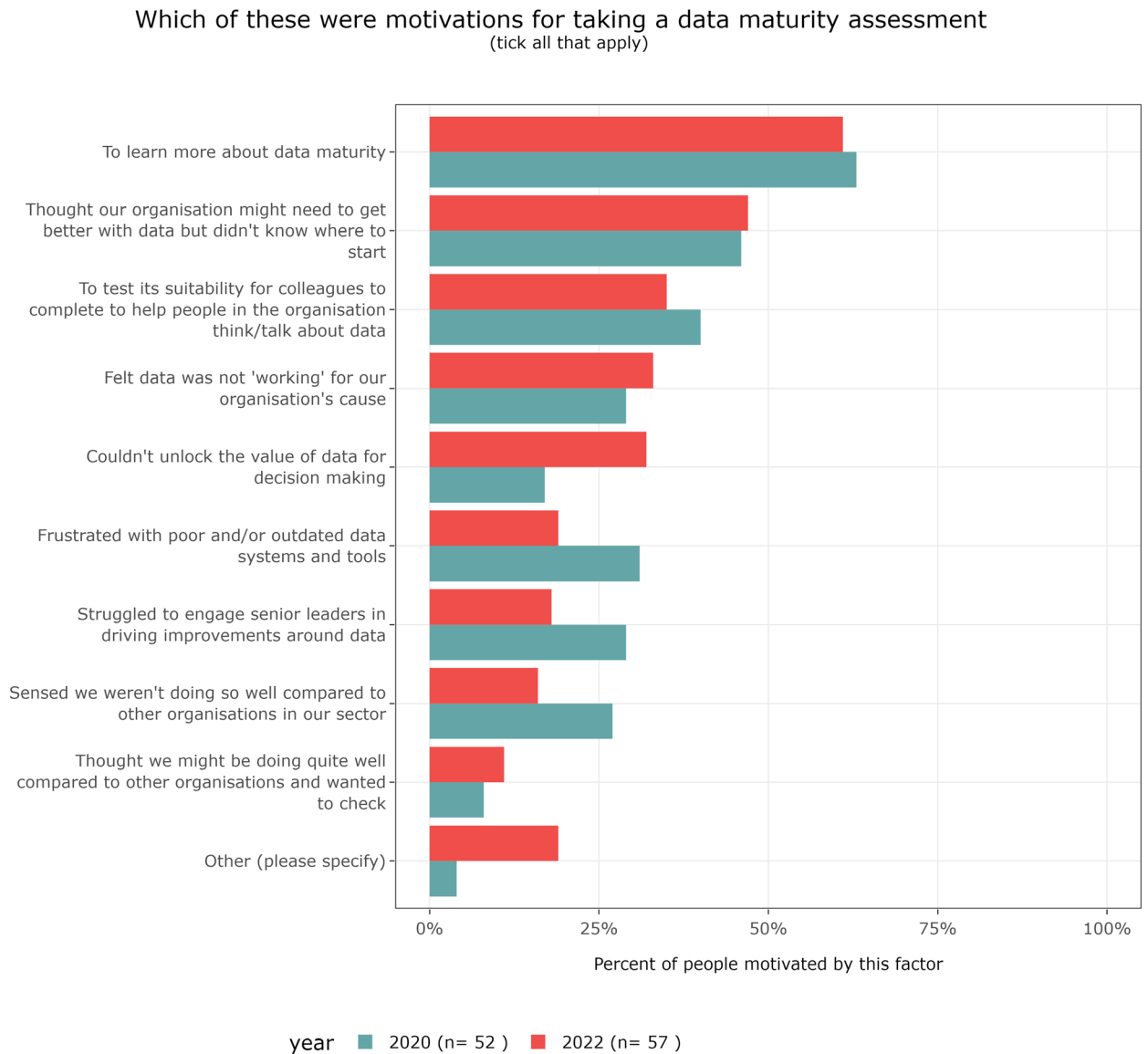


Figure 15: Motivations for taking the assessment from respondents of the 2020 and 2022 impact survey

Benefits were similar again, with a higher proportion of respondents reporting moderate benefits in 2020 compared to 2022. The top 3 benefits were the same in both reports:

- provided an objective reflection of where my organisation was at
- improved my understanding about important factors and questions
- increased motivation to improve my organisation's data maturity

To what extent did you receive the following benefits?

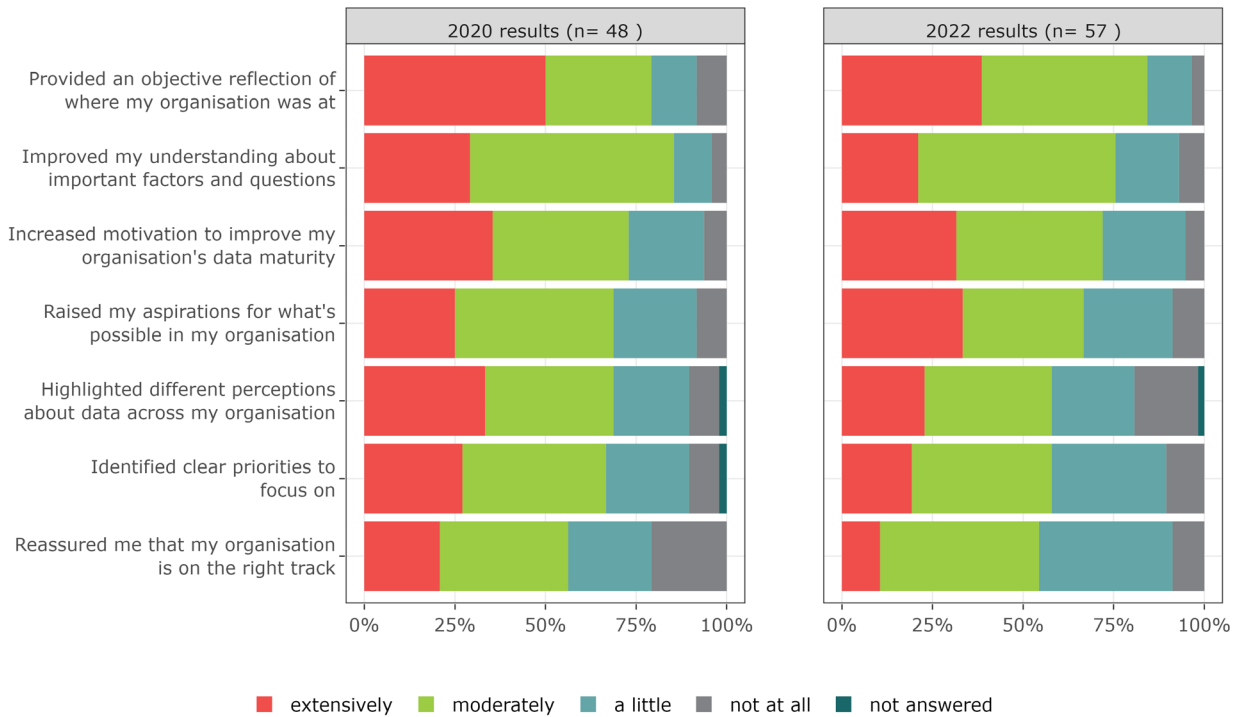


Figure 16: Benefits of taking the data maturity assessment from respondents of the 2020 and 2022 impact survey

It seems that a higher proportion of people reported taking actions after completing the assessment in 2020, compared to 2022. The trend of which actions were taken most is the same, except it appears that more people shared the results with their organisation in 2020. Since the sample size is fairly small, we cannot draw any firm conclusions.

Following your data maturity assessment, did you do any of the following?  
(tick all that apply)

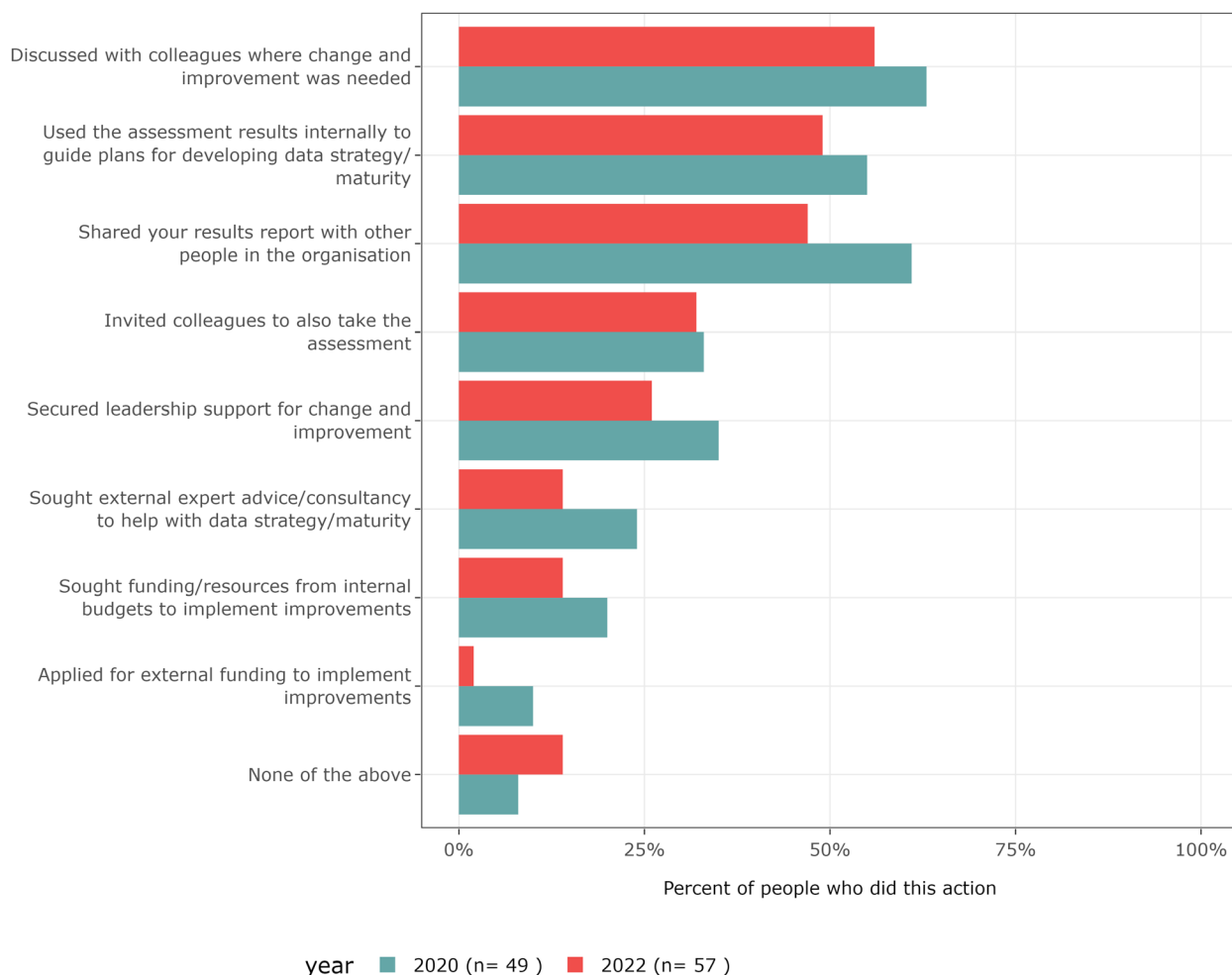


Figure 17: Actions taken after a data maturity assessment from respondents of the 2020 and 2022 impact survey

**Support providers**

As there were only five support providers who responded to our survey this year, and seven who responded in our 2020 survey, the sample size is too small to make any meaningful comparisons. We hope that over the next year we will be able to gather more data to investigate this.

## Conclusion

In this report we present findings from our 2022 Data Maturity Assessment Impact Evaluation. The survey aims to test our theory of change for the Data Maturity Assessment Tool. The results found were largely what we expected, based on our theory of change.

### Users of the free Individual version

Overall, these results support our theory of change. Most users of the free Individual version of the tool were able to gain an objective reflection of where they are at and engaged in discussions with colleagues after taking the assessment. We see this as an important first step to improving data maturity.

The top motivation for taking an assessment was to learn more (62% of respondents cited this). 72% of respondents agreed that *'improved understanding about important factors and questions'* was a benefit of taking the assessment. This suggests that people are gaining what they hoped from the tool: a greater understanding of data maturity.

Although it is promising to see that using our assessment tool leads to positive action for most people, it would be useful to know why - for 16% of people - it doesn't. If these people are simply wanting to learn about data maturity, then committing no further actions is not surprising. However, in order for our tool to have long-term implications in the not-for-profit sector we need it to lead to positive changes and action.

Although only a few sought funding (internally or externally), it is of note that almost all of them were successful. This indicates that it is possible that the Data Maturity Assessment Tool could be a useful aid in securing funds. Our theory of change predicts that these funds (which were invested in training, new tools and jobs) could lead to long-term rewards and benefits. For example, *'increased knowledge and expertise'*, *'better decision making'*, *'better services and product's'*.

42% of respondents went on to implement a data strategy, although not many achievements were made *'extensively'* from this. It could be that it is too soon to see long-term achievements. Of the 50 not-for-profit users of the free tool who responded to our survey, 34 (60%) took a data maturity assessment for the first time less than six months before the impact survey. Additionally, it could be that there are other achievements of a data strategy that our theory of change does not address. Or that the strategies people are implementing are not that effective. Our assumption is that it's still too early to see the impacts of data strategy implementations, so watch this space.

### Users of the paid-for Organisational version

Many of the patterns we see in users of the Organisational version of the of the Data Maturity Assessment Tool are similar to that of users of the free Individual version. There is a high motivation to learn about data maturity and the most common actions are sharing results and discussing data maturity with colleagues.

Importantly, most users of Organisational version experienced all the benefits we asked about at least moderately. Furthermore, many more benefits were experienced *'extensively'*, compared to free Individual version users.

The fact that all respondents said they took some action after taking the assessment is support for the impact of our tool as a driver of change. Around 40% implemented a data strategy plan with limited achievements (as mentioned previously, this is possibly because there has not been sufficient time to see the fruits of their data strategy implementations).

## Support providers

It is difficult to make any strong conclusions from these results, as not many support providers completed the survey (five respondents). For those who did respond, it seems as though the tool supports them by providing reassurance and reinforcing what good practice looks like. Some qualitative data about how this fed into the support they were providing would help us to understand this area better.

## Comparison to 2020 impact results

Overall, the trend of results is similar for both the 2020 and 2022 Data Maturity Assessment Tool impact surveys. It appears as though respondents to the 2020 survey gave more noticeable results (i.e. stated more extensive benefits and conducted more actions following the assessment). However, the sample size is too small to say this with any certainty.

## Overall

Most users from not-for-profit organisations were highly motivated to take an assessment by *'wanting to learn more about data maturity'* and *'not knowing where to start with getting better with data'*. The most extensive benefits were *'increased aspiration and motivation for improving data maturity'*, *'providing an objective reflection of where the organisation is at'*, and *'highlighting different perceptions about data across the organisation'*. This is true for users of both the free Individual version and paid-for Organisational version of our tool. Benefits observed by users of the Organisational version were notably more extensive than for users of the free Individual version (although this sample size is small).

The most common actions following a data maturity assessment were sharing the results and discussing improvements with colleagues. Additionally, a large portion of users of the Organisational version were able to secure leadership support. Around 40% of not-for-profit organisations implemented a data strategy plan following a data maturity assessment. We suspect it is too soon to witness the long-term benefits as a result of this plan.

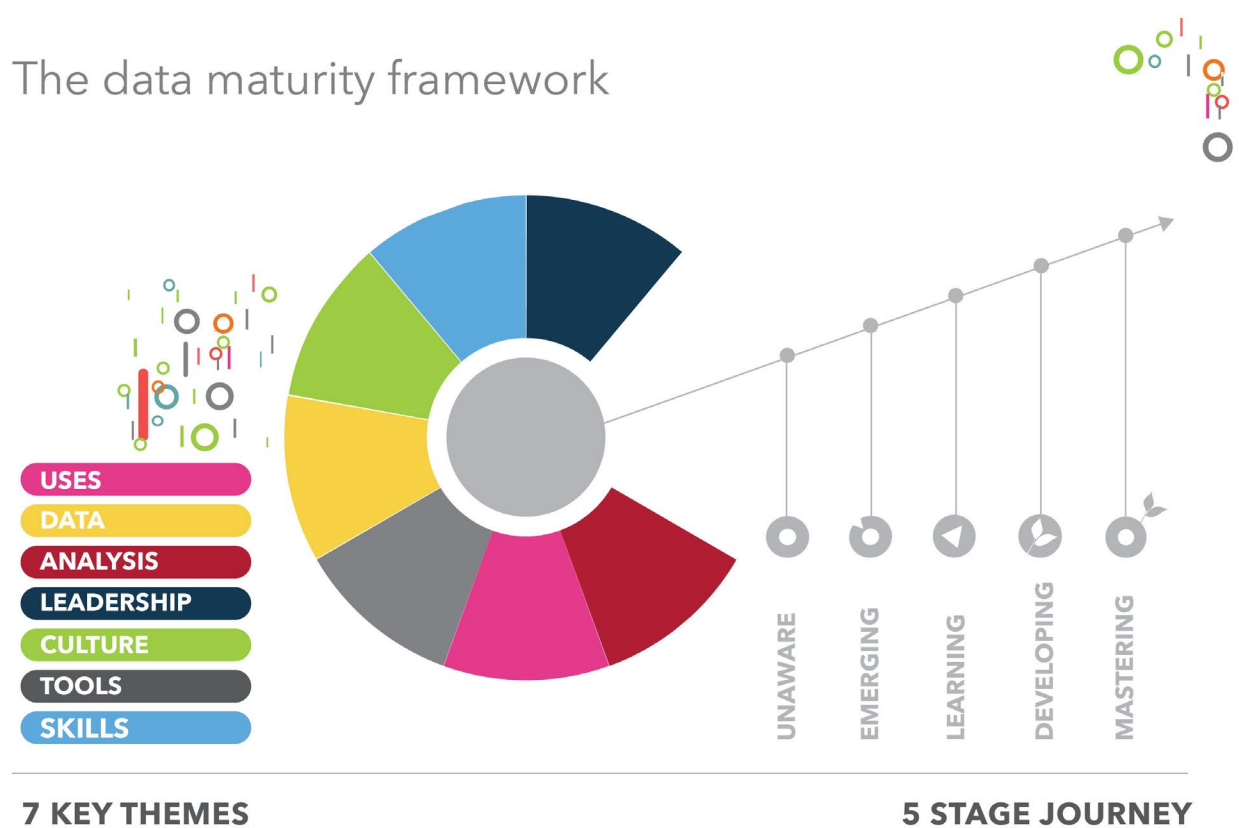
Finally, we compared the results from the survey to our last impact survey, conducted in 2020, and found a very similar pattern of results. This consistency in findings is promising, as it points towards a reliability in our results.



## Appendix

### Data maturity framework

Data maturity is the journey an organisation takes towards improvement and increased capability in using data. Our framework outlines seven key themes to data maturity along a five-stage journey. The seven themes are: Uses, Data, Analysis, Leadership, Culture, Tools and Skills. The five stages are Unaware, Emerging, Learning, Developing and Mastering. An organisation can score at any of the five stages for each of the seven themes. [Read our full data maturity framework here.](#)



© Data Orchard CIC. Licenced for non-commercial use Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Figure 18: Data Maturity Themes and Stages

### Data Maturity Assessment Tool

Data Orchard has designed a self-assessment tool that organisations can use to evaluate how they score for each of the seven key themes, and therefore their overall data maturity score. The full assessment takes around 20 minutes. There are three versions of the assessment tool available:

- Individual - Anyone can use this version to take an assessment for free. Data maturity score is based on that individual's responses.

- Organisational - Using this version of the tool, multiple people within an organisation take the assessment and the results are compiled into an organisational report. This gives a more accurate data maturity score.
- Cohort - Multiple organisations can use this version to take the assessment at the same time. Ideal for data consultants, support providers, networks, and membership organisations wanting to advance organisations' data maturity collectively.

## Theory of change

Our theory of change outlines how we expect the Data Maturity Assessment Tool to have an impact in the short and long term. The theory of change targets specific people and identifies specific problems.

### Users

The theory of change for our Data Maturity Assessment Tool identifies four key users in the non-for-profit sector:

- Leader (CEO, director, trustee)
- Data Champion (Data/database manager, analyst or someone responsible for data in impact evaluation, research, fundraising, digital/ICT, marketing, service management or delivery)
- Data Strategist (Responsible for data across the whole organisation)
- Support Provider (A third party who is helping a non-profit organisation get better with data e.g. consultant, product/service company)

### Problems

We expect these people to be experiencing problems with:

- Having limited knowledge about data maturity
- Feel like data is not working for their organisation's cause
- Wanting to get better at data but not knowing where to start
- Struggling to engage leaders and colleagues in discussions about data or driving improvements
- Not knowing what good and great look like, or how well they compare to others. (This could be the sense they are not doing so well and want to check or, after investing effort into data capabilities, feel they are doing better than others and want to check.)
- Frustrated by poor and/or outdated systems and tools
- Unable to unlock the value of data for decision making

## Outcomes

Outcomes are changes in attitudes, behaviour, skills and knowledge. By taking a data maturity assessment, we predict immediate benefits that bring about tangible actions. These actions lead to results that increase data maturity and provide long-term rewards and benefits.

### *Immediate outcomes*

- Advancing knowledge
  - Improved understanding about important factors and questions in organisational data maturity
  - Objective reflection of the stage the organisation is currently at
  - Increased awareness of different perceptions about data across the organisation
  - Identified clear priorities to focus on
  - Shared understanding and language about data in the organisation
- Changing attitudes
  - Raised aspirations of what's possible
  - Increased motivation to improve data maturity
  - Reassured they are on the right track

### *Actions*

- Share results with colleagues and invite them to take the assessment
- Discuss with colleagues where improvement is needed
- Secured leadership support for change and improvement
- Seek external expert advice on data strategy
- Seek funding or resources to implement improvements
- Develop a data strategy/improvement plan

### *Intermediate outcomes*

- Secure funding or resources
- Invest in people (existing or new staff roles and responsibilities), tools, advice, and training
- Implement their data strategy/improvement plans

### *Long-term outcomes*

- Improved strategic planning and decision making
- Better services and/or products
- Greater impact
- Increased income

- Efficiency savings
- Increased credibility and influence
- Increased knowledge and expertise
- Increased collaboration and data sharing with strategic partners

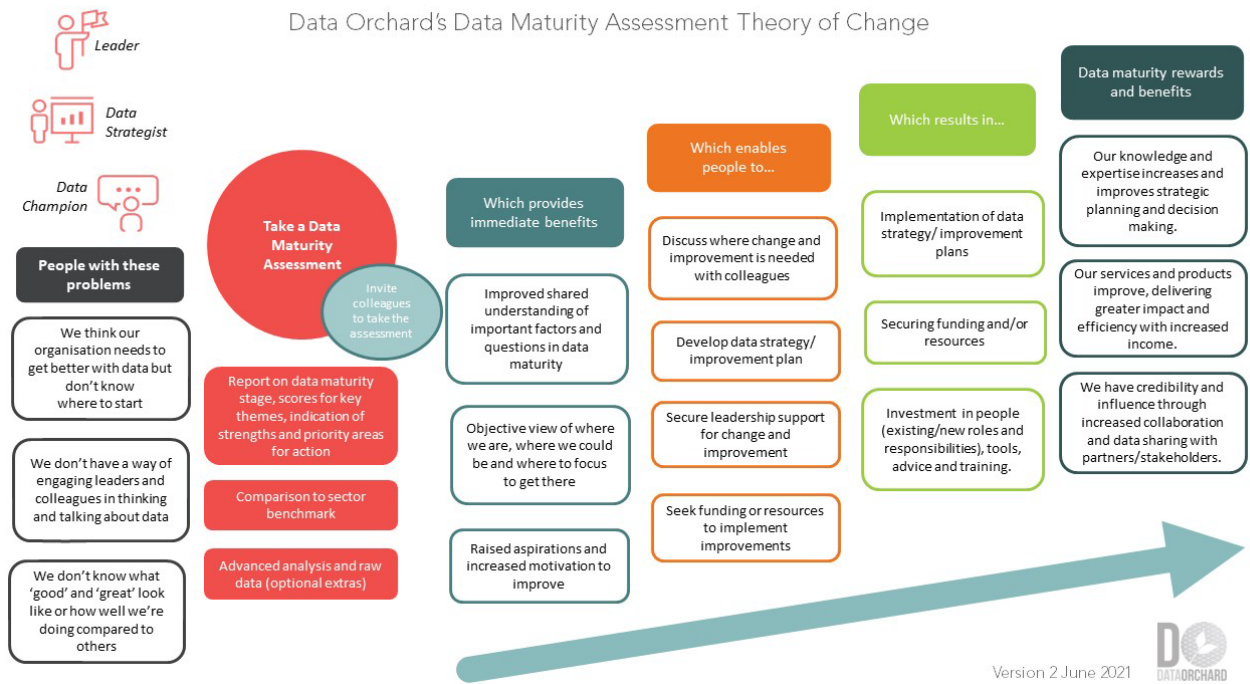


Figure 19: Theory of Change for Data Maturity Assessment