

CASE STUDY (INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH)

Safeguarding Critical Research Data at ICR

The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) holds some of the most valuable data in oncology – from clinical trials to lab-generated datasets. But behind the breakthroughs, their legacy data protection setup was struggling to keep pace. Recovery processes were outdated, heavily reliant on tape storage, with no certainty that data could be restored in the event of a crisis.

When Jonathan Monk joined as CIO, strengthening data recoverability became a priority. The goal was clear: ensure reliable, tested recovery capabilities and future-proof ICR's cyber resilience strategy.



The Challenge

- Outdated, tape-based recovery with no guarantee of successful restores
- Rising cyber risk, particularly from ransomware
- High cost of offline storage without assurance it would work in a crisis
- A need for tested recoverability, not first-time restores under pressure

"Working with Harbor has given us the assurance that we can recover our data in the event of a crisis." – Jonathan Monk, CIO, ICR

Why Harbor

After a competitive procurement process, ICR selected Harbor as its partner. The decision came down to secure, flexible solutions that were simple to onboard and delivered with a team willing to work in step with ICR's timelines and needs.

"For me, the sign of a successful project is when you don't really have to get involved. As a CIO, it's your role to identify areas of concern and then empower your team to pick the solution and run with it. Partnering with Harbor for our data recovery project enabled us to do just that. It was the project that every CIO wants." – Jonathan Monk

The Solution

Harbor deployed a modern recovery platform that:

- Protects both on-premises and Office 365 workloads
- Provides tested, verifiable recovery as part of ICR's wider cyber security strategy
- Goes beyond the original scope, shaping ICR's thinking on future protection needs

"The Harbor team have helped shape and influence our thinking going forward." – Jonathan Monk



The Results

- Confidence that research data is secure and recoverable
- Faster, simpler recovery testing, embedded into ICR's cyber resilience programme
- A trusted partnership that continues to evolve with ICR's mission

"Nobody plans for their boat to sink, yet every boat should have a life raft." – Jonathan Monk

Outcome

With Harbor, ICR has gained the tested recoverability it needed to protect mission-critical cancer research data. The solution is resilient, easy to manage, and trusted to evolve with ICR's needs.

"This was the project every CIO wants. You agree the outcome, the team delivers it, and it just works." – Jonathan Monk