

COMET

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A team effort

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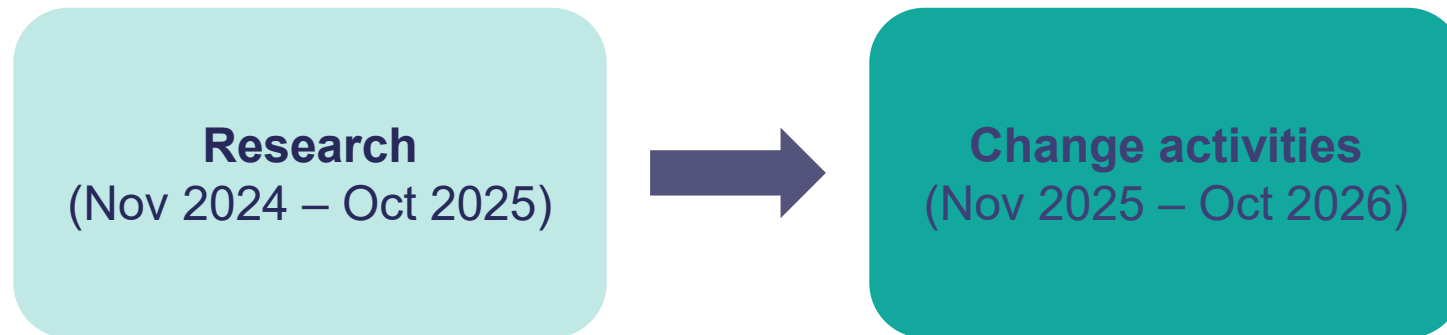
Paul Nightingale

The COMET project

Universities are uniquely placed to use research evidence to improve their research environment.

However, the use of academic evidence to inform decision-making is **not widely embedded** in universities.

COMET seeks to understand this further and make change!



Internal data gathering and consultation



It was really important, I think, to really drill down into how people feel about the situation they're in right now... Because we need to know where we're at, we need to know what we're dealing with, and we need to know what people need to try and improve things for them.



So those 2 things on the EDI front that we've looked at and said yeah, we've tracked them over the years... here's the investment, here's the increase in production... here's the increase of successful bids', those kind of ideas. So we're sort of seeing a correlation.



We've got a good evidence that it's a very good return on investment, and we use that to justify why we should continue running that [initiative] and why if we could we'd like to increase the resource of the budget.

Decision-makers reported **barriers** to using academic evidence

I'll be honest with you, I haven't time to read [academic reports]. I don't have the luxury of spending a half day reading around lots of different topics



It [research culture] seemed like an operational matter... never struck us as being a potential subject of academic inquiry.



[Academic publications are] pretty impenetrable, except to the people who actually understand that."



'If you have the responsibility for doing something new, and it goes wrong that falls on you. Whereas if you are doing things that the people before you did, you have a certain level of protection...They're just afraid... we're not going to do as well as we could, and it's going to fall on them.'

For comparative purposes, obviously you're looking at your competitors and seeing what they're doing.

We need to prioritise **learning and innovation**

Thank you!

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