

# **Financing Core NMR Facilities (The RC-imposed way to do things)**

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## What are we **REQUIRED** by RCs to do?

- If you don't want to recover NMR Facility money from grants then **NOTHING!**
- If you want to recover money from grants then you must either:
  - Charge each expense to consumables budget of a specific grant (Professor X for He, Professor Y for a printer cartridge, etc).
  - Be declared a 'Facility' and this allows you to charge by usage:
    - Excl. equipment depreciation (Small Research Facility, <£300k/annum cost)
    - Inc. equipment depreciation (Major Research Facility, >£300k/annum cost)
    - But you **MUST** link the charge to actual usage – **Do you?!?!?**

## Small/Major Research Facilities

- About 80% of our labs are part of an SRF (one is an MRF)
- ‘Facilities’ costs are entered onto a grant application as an estimated cost (like chemicals, glassware, etc) and your finance team should just invoice against usage if the grant is awarded
- There appears to be a lot of confusion over how this gets charged

How do you your institutions charge grants? Per sample? Per hour?

Discuss!

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## 'Unit Charge'

The charge for usage should be calculated:

- an annual fEC (a)
- total units of use for a year (b);
- a charge-out rate per unit of use: (a) divided by (b).

[http://www.jcpsg.ac.uk/guidance/part4\\_g2.htm](http://www.jcpsg.ac.uk/guidance/part4_g2.htm)

Is the main aim of the game to make (a) big and (b) small,  
then charge for LOTS of (b)?

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## 'Unit Charge'

- 'Per sample' charge
  - Easy to record on most instruments?
  - Not appropriate where using highly varied experiment times
- 'Per hour' charge
  - Easy to record on bookable instruments?
  - Painful to record on walk-up kit?

How do you folks capture this? Bespoke software? Staff time?

How simple can we 'get away with'?

## Some of the complexities of charging

- Linking usage to a grant code (how do you do this?)
- What about 'unfunded' users?
  - Visiting PhD
  - Undergraduate research students
  - Undergraduate teaching labs
- What happens when their money runs out (do you care?)?
- What happens when OUR money runs out (I definitely care!)?

**Discuss!**

## How much do you charge?

- Per Hour
  - £2.50-£10 typical
    - Most are £2-£4 for walk-up instruments and >£5 for those requiring more care-and-attention
    - Bristol averages it at £7/hour for any instrument
  - Prices go up to £40/hour (justifications being for 'service' samples, heavy cryoprobe work etc).

## How much do you charge?

- Per Sample
  - Somewhat less of this type of charging
  - £1-£5/sample depending on experiment and ‘heavy usage’ (cheaper for heavier users?)
    - Bristol charges £2.50 independent of experiment, but only charges like this on walk-up instruments (and actually just generates this from an average per hour charge).



## Summary

There are more approaches to charging than there are people in this room

No department (or even people within the same department) have a clear picture on how/why to charge.

But we may be able to minimise the problem by sharing knowledge....

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