

Cost clarity, powered by data

Transforming financial intelligence
with Microsoft Fabric and Power BI



The Modernization
Engineering Company



Summary

Sonata helped the client modernize its decade-old activity-based costing (ABC) model by redesigning it on Microsoft Fabric, OneLake, and Power BI. The solution automated manual data ingestion and transformation processes, improved cost allocation accuracy, and enabled real-time financial insights for finance, commercial, and operational teams. The transformation delivered an 80% reduction in manual effort and over £250K in estimated savings through automation.

Customer overview

One of UK’s largest independent private hospitals, known for advanced clinical care, specialist expertise, and patient-centric outcomes.

Pressure points

The legacy ABC model, built in Microsoft Access, was over a decade old and lacked scalability, automation, and integration

Manual data ingestion and transformation processes led to delays, errors, and limited reporting capabilities

Cost allocation for key services like outpatients and interventional radiology was incomplete or inaccurate

Limited user access, governance, and auditability posed operational risks

Finance and operational teams lacked real-time insights for strategic decision-making

Solution highlights

Re-designed implementation of the ABC model using MS-Fabric, OneLake, and Power BI

Automated data pipelines replacing manual Excel-based ingestion

SQL and Python/Spark-based transformation logic integrated into Fabric

Power BI dashboards for finance, commercial, and operational reporting

Power Apps for manual GL mapping and finance tasks

Role-based access control and versioning for governance

Historical data retention and enhanced cost pool granularity (e.g., pathology, therapies, radiology)

Results that speak volumes

Improved cost allocation accuracy across key business services

Enabled real-time financial insights through Power BI dashboards

Strengthened governance and security with role-based access and audit trails

Increased stakeholder engagement through co-designed dashboards and training

By the numbers

80% reduction in manual effort for data ingestion and transformation

50% faster model refresh cycles, moving from annual to monthly updates

Improved cost allocation accuracy across **30+** cost pools

£250K+ estimated savings through automation