

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

17-18240

Date sent

6/12/2017

Subject

Cyber Security spend, Attacks and Preventative Measures

Details of enquiry

- What was your total annual spend on cyber security in tax years?:
 - 2014-2015
 - 2015-2016
 - 2016-2017
 - 2017-2018
- If any, how many successful and unsuccessful cyber attacks did you have during the above years?
- For the above years, what types of attacks or attempted attacks happened
- If any attacks were successful how did this happen and how was this dealt with?
- What is your current cyber security strategy?

The final project will not end up in the public domain and will only be seen by myself and the staff who will be tasked with marking the document.

Response Sent

Your request for information, as detailed in your email below, has been considered and our responses follow below.

- What was your total annual spend on cyber security in tax years?:
 - 2014-2015
£20,000
 - 2015-2016
£25,000
 - 2016-2017
£20,000
 - 2017-2018
£44,000
- If any, how many successful and unsuccessful cyber-attacks did you have during the above years?
One unsuccessful (PCs infected no data loss), no known successful
- For the above years, what types of attacks or attempted attacks happened
ransomware

- If any attacks were successful how did this happen and how was this dealt with?
[Restoration of data from backup](#)

- What is your current cyber security strategy?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with this strategy, as it could be used by others to conduct criminal or malicious attacks onto our computer systems, and is exempt from disclosure, under Section 31 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA2000), Law Enforcement, disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime

Before concluding our decision to withhold this, we conducted, as required by statute for this exemption, a public interest test, on whether public interest in disclosing this information outweighs public interest in withholding it. If found to outweigh it, exemption would not be applied and the information released

The findings of the public interest test confirmed that there is an overwhelming public interest in maintaining security of public authority NHS computer systems and patient records, which would be served by withholding this and outweighing any benefits of its release. It was therefore decided to withhold the current cyber security strategy which you requested.

On a final note, your comment that *"The final project will not end up in the public domain and will only be seen by myself and the staff who will be tasked with marking the document."* cannot be taken into consideration. All FOI questions and answers are publicly available on websites, including our own, and other media and are freely available for reuse.