



21 December 2017

Information Rights & Compliance Team
99 Waverley Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804954
Email: foi@hpft.nhs.uk

Our Ref: FOI 2774

Thank you for your request concerning the total annual spend on cyber security.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. What was your total annual spend on cyber security in the following tax years 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17. 2017/18?

We do not have a separate budget for cyber security. All our ICT requirements are outsourced to Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire & Luton ICT (HBLICT) as part of a consortium agreement. Cyber security is included in the overall contract value.

2. If any, how many successful and unsuccessful cyber-attacks did you have during the above years?

We are unable to provide you with this information¹ because as explained above HBLICT provide all our ICT requirements and they are unable to split our information from the other partners involved in this contract.

3. For the above years, what types of attacks or attempted attacks happened?

Please see the answer to question 2.

4. If any attacks were successful how did this happen and how was this dealt with?

Please see the answer to question 2.

5. What is your current cyber security strategy?

The information you are requesting relating to our cyber security controls could be used to compromise the security of the organisation. It would make the organisation vulnerable to a crime such as hacking and this could lead to a theft of information or a denial of service to IT systems therefore we have applied **S31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement (1) Information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice (a) the prevention or detection of crime.**

¹ Section 1(1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

We have considered the reasons for and against disclosure below:

Reason in favour of disclosure

We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency and recognise that releasing this information would provide the public with assurance that we are protecting their information and our technologies.

Reason against disclosure

Disclosure of the information requested could make the Trust more vulnerable to cyber-crime as it outlines the Trust's security position which could be used as a starting point to attack network infrastructure and/or information systems

We have reached the view that on balance, the public interest is better serviced by withholding this information under the section 31(1) exemption.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

