

05 April 2019

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

Tel: 01727 804954
Email: Hpkt.foi@nhs.net

Our Ref: FOI/03211

Thank you for your request concerning Cyber Security.

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

- 1 **Are you aware of the Minimum Cyber Security Standard, published 25th June 2018?**
 - a. Yes ✓
 - b. No

- 2 **What is your annual dedicated budget for cybersecurity (including personnel and technology)?**
 - a. £10,000 or less
 - b. £10,001 - £50,000
 - c. £50,001 - £100,000
 - d. £100,001 - £500,000
 - e. £500,001 - £1,000,000
 - f. £1,000,001 - £5,000,000
 - g. £5,000,001 - £10,000,000
 - h. £10,000,001 or more

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.

QUESTIONS:

3. **Approximately how many cyber-attacks (of any kind) have you experienced in your organisation in these 12-month periods?**

4. **Which of the following attack / cybersecurity threat types have been detected by your organisation? [Select all that apply]**
 - a. Hacking
 - b. Phishing
 - c. Malware
 - d. Ransomware
 - e. Accidental/careless insider threat
 - f. Malicious insider threat
 - g. Foreign governments
 - h. Crypto mining
 - i. Other, please specify: _____



5. Which of the following form part of your cybersecurity defence technology strategy? [Select all that apply]
- a. Firewall
 - b. Antivirus software
 - c. Network device monitoring
 - d. DNS filtering
 - e. Malware protection
 - f. Log management
 - g. Network configuration management
 - h. Patch management
 - i. Network traffic analysis
 - j. Multi-factor authentication
 - k. Network perimeter security solutions
 - l. Employee training (whole organisation)
 - m. Employee training (IT team)
 - n. Other, please specify: _____
6. Which of these obstacles has your organisation experienced in maintaining or improving IT security? [Select all that apply]
- a. Competing priorities and other initiatives
 - b. Budget constraints
 - c. Lack of manpower
 - d. Lack of technical solutions available at my agency
 - e. Complexity of internal environment
 - f. Lack of training for personnel
 - g. Inadequate collaboration with other internal teams or departments
 - h. Other, please specify: _____

ANSWER:

The information you are requesting in questions 3 to 6 are relating to our cyber security controls and if answered 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.

S31 is subject to a test of prejudice. Please see below for our considered reasons for and against disclosure:

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](#).

