

22 November 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI/03464

Thank you for your request concerning ransomware attacks.

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

**QUESTIONS:**

- 1. In the last 5 years, how many times has your trust/hospital suffered from a ransomware attack?**
- 2. Please provide specific dates (months/years) if possible.**
- 3. How much downtime did this cause (in hours)?**
- 4. Did you pay the ransom? If so, how much was the ransom?**
- 5. What was the total cost of the incident to your hospital/trust?**

**ANSWER:**

We believe by providing the answers to all of the above questions could be used to compromise the security of the organisation.

It would make the organisation vulnerable to an attack 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 a ransomware attack 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 served 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](#).

