

16 December 2020

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI/03820

Thank you for your request concerning Cyber Attacks.

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

1. **A list of all cyber-attacks (both failed and successful) on NHS hospitals falling under your remit, in each year since 2015 (including broader cyber-attacks which include these hospitals). Where possible, please could you split the data as follows:**
  - **Ideally, I am requesting only those cyber-attacks identified as or suspected of a) coming from a source within Russia or China; or b) emanating from any individual(s) or group(s) known to have, or suspected of having, links to the Russian or Chinese state. In each instance, please could you make clear which country the attack relates to.**
  - **If this is not possible, please could you make clear whether an attack is thought to have come from inside/outside the UK.**

**In each instance, I am also requesting the following information:**

- **The severity of the attack, where it has been noted (e.g. low, medium, high).**
- **The outcome of successful attacks. For example: were documents stolen (and how many)? Was confidential data stolen (and how much)? Were any operations or other NHS processes cancelled or delayed as a result (and how many)?**
- **The cost to the NHS, where that cost is easily deductible/accessible. This could include but is not limited to a) delayed or cancelled operations, lost data, etc.; b) the security/staffing cost of defending against an attack; c) any consequent legal costs e.g. lawsuits filed successfully against the NHS as a result of personal data theft. If this part of the request is unduly onerous, please disregard.**

The information you are requesting in the above questions are relating to cyber-attacks 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.

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust is a provider of mental health and specialist learning disability services therefore I can confirm there have been no delayed or cancelled operations.

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](#).

