

20 July 2021

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI/04009

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.

**Questions:**

1. **How many cyber-attacks (incidents) did your organisation experience in the last 3 years?**
2. **If these statistics are available within the cost limit, how many of those incidents involved a) Malware b) Ransomware c) Hacking d) Phishing emails**
3. **How many incidents over the last 3 years were reported to the Department of Health and Social Care, whether under the Security of Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018, or otherwise?**
4. **How many incidents over the last 3 years resulted in a notification to the Information Commissioner's Office?**
5. **How many incidents over the last 3 years were reported to both DHSC and the ICO?**

**Answer:**

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 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](#).

