East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

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FOI REF: 21/458

15th September 2021

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

**1. In the past three years has your organisation:**

**a. Had any ransomware incidents? (An incident where an attacker attempted to, or successfully, encrypted a computing device within your organisation with the aim of extorting a payment or action in order to decrypt the device?)**

No.

**i. If yes, how many?**

Not applicable.

**b. Had any data rendered permanently inaccessible by a ransomware incident (i.e. some data was not able to be restored from back up.)**

No.

**c. Had any data rendered permanently inaccessible by a systems or equipment failure (i.e. some data was not able to be restored from back up.)**

No.

**d. Paid a ransom due to a ransomware incident / to obtain a decryption key or tool?**

No.

**i. If yes was the decryption successful, with all files recovered?**

Not applicable.

Cont…/

**e. Used a free decryption key or tool?**

No.

**i. If yes was the decryption successful, with all files recovered?**

Not applicable.

**f. Had a formal policy on ransomware payment?**

No.

**i. If yes please provide, or link, to all versions relevant to the 3 year period.**

Not applicable.

**g. Held meetings where policy on paying ransomware was discussed?**

No.

**h. Paid consultancy fees for malware, ransomware, or system intrusion investigation**

No.

**i. If yes at what cost in each year?**

Not applicable.

**i. Used existing support contracts for malware, ransomware, or system intrusion investigation?**

No.

**j. Requested central government support for malware, ransomware, or system intrusion investigation?**

No.

**k. Paid for data recovery services?**

No.

**i. If yes at what cost in each year?**

Not applicable.

**l. Used existing contracts for data recovery services?**

No.

Cont…/

**m. Replaced IT infrastructure such as servers that have been compromised by malware?**

No.

**i. If yes at what cost in each year?**

Not applicable.

**n. Replaced IT endpoints such as PCs, Laptops, Mobile devices that have been compromised by malware?**

No.

**i. If yes at what cost in each year?**

Not applicable.

**o. Lost data due to portable electronic devices being mislaid, lost or destroyed?**

No.

**i. If yes how many incidents in each year?**

Not applicable.

**2. Does your organisation use a cloud based office suite system such as Google Workspace (Formerly G Suite) or Microsoft's Office 365?**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 31(1)a exemption because disclosure of this information under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The Trust considers that the release of the information about our IT hardware and systems would make the Trust more vulnerable to crime.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in preventing the prejudice outweighs the public interest in disclosure due to the significant impact a successful cyber-attack can have.

**a. If yes is this system's data independently backed up, separately from that platform's own tools?**

Please see above.

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**3. Is an offsite data back-up a system in place for the following? (Offsite backup is the replication of the data to a server which is separated geographically from the system's normal operating location site.)**

**a. Mobile devices such as phones and tablet computers**
**b. Desktop and laptop computers**
**c. Virtual desktops**
**d. Servers on premise**
**e. Co-located or hosted servers**
**f. Cloud hosted servers**
**g. Virtual machines**
**h. Data in SaaS applications**
**i. ERP / finance system**
**j. We do not use any offsite back-up systems**

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**4. Are the services in question 3 backed up by a single system or are multiple systems used?**

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**5. Do you have a cloud migration strategy? If so is there specific budget allocated to this?**

No.

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**6. How many Software as a Services (SaaS) applications are in place within your organisation?**

22.

**a. How many have been adopted since January 2020?**

4.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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