

FOI REF: 23/038

1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)

## 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. What was the total number of cyber attack incidents that have been recorded in your trust in the past 24 months?**

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 the number of cyber-attack incidents 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.

**2. What is the classification of your policy regarding breach response?**

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 the classification of our policy regarding breach response would make the Trust more vulnerable to crime.

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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 criminal attack can have.

**3. Of the devices running Windows operating systems, what is the number and percentage of devices running Windows 11, Windows 10, Windows 7, Windows XP?**

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 the Trust's operating 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 criminal attack can have.

**4. What are the top 20 cyber security risks in your Trust, and how are they managed?**

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 the Trust's cyber security risks 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.

**5. Do you continue to use the Unified Cyber Risk Framework, is so how many risks are still identified/managed.**

No.

**6. What is your Patch Management Cycle and how is it implemented on old Operating systems (e.g., for Windows , Windows XP)?**

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 the Trust's Patch Management Cycle 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 criminal attack can have.

**7. What is your current status on unpatched Operating Systems?**

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 the Trust's current status on unpatched operating 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 criminal attack can have.

**8. Of the devices running Windows Servers operating systems, what is the number and percentage of devices running Windows 2000, Windows 2003, Windows 2008, Windows 2012, Windows 2016, Windows 2019, Windows 2022?**

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 the Trust's operating 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 criminal attack can have.

**9. Has your Trust signed up to and implemented the NHS Secure Boundary managed service to strengthen cyber resilience?**

Yes.

**a. If so, how many cyber security threats has the NHS Secure Boundary detected within your NHS Trust since its implementation?**

We do not hold this information as this is managed by NHS Digital.

**10. Does your Trust hold a cyber insurance policy? If so:**

**a. What is the name of the provider;**

**b. How much does the service cost; and**

**c. By how much has the price of the service increased year-to-year over the last three years?**

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 the Trust's cyber insurance 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.

11. **When did the current Board last receive a briefing on cybersecurity threats within healthcare, and when did they last participate in cyber security training? How frequently, if at all, do these briefings and trainings occur, and are they carried out by cyber security technology professionals?**

The last briefing occurred in December 2022. Yearly Desktop exercises. Briefings are held quarterly, and they are carried out by cyber security technology professionals.

12. **Has your NHS Trust completed a Connection Agreement to use the Health and Social Care Network (HSCN)? If so, did you pass, and is there a copy of the code of connection?**

HSCN relies on the completion of the DSTP, which the Trust has passed and can be found here [Organisation Details \(dsptoolkit.nhs.uk\)](https://dsptoolkit.nhs.uk).

13. **Have there been any incidents of staff members or personnel within your Trust being let go due to issues surrounding cyber security governance?**

No.

14. **How many open vacancies for cyber security positions are there within your Trust, and is their hour capacity affected by a shortage of qualified applicants?**

None.

15. **Are there mandatory minimum training requirements for those transferred internally to work in cybersecurity within your Trust, and if so, how often is the training updated and revised to reflect the evolving nature of the industry?**

No.

16. **How much money is spent by your Trust per year on public relations related to cyber attacks? What percentage of your overall budget does this amount to?**

Communications on cyber security are undertaken as part of routine business as usual internal communications by the trust communications team.

17. **Does your Trust have a Chief Information Risk Officer? If so, who do they report to?**

The Chief Information Risk Officer is Damian Reid who is the Chief Financial Officer on the Board.

18. **When was the last time your Trust underwent a security audit? At what frequency do these audits occur?**

End of 2022 and ongoing.

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**19. What is your strategy to ensure security in cloud computing?**

The Trust uses 3rd parties to provide expertise and audit.

**20. Do you purchase additional / enhanced support from a Supplier for end-of-life software (Operating Systems / Applications)? If so, what are the associated costs per year per Operating System / Application, and the total spend for enhanced support?**

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 request above 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 criminal attack can have.

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, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)  
Corporate Governance Manager  
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