

FOI REF: 25/040

17th January 2025

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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:

I would like to request under the Freedom of Information Act details on ransomware attacks on your organisation between 2019 and 2024.

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

Under FOIA Section 31(3) the Trust neither confirm nor deny it holds the information requested and 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 this information would provide information about the NHS Trust's information security systems and its resilience to cyber-attacks which 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 cyber-attack can have on staff, patients and the wider community.

1. **In particular, I would like to know the number of ransomware attacks on your organisation between 2019 and 2024.**

Sections 31(3) and 31(1)(a) applied, please see above.

2. **I would like to know the number of successful attacks on your system.**

Sections 31(3) and 31(1)(a) applied, please see above.

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3. I would also like to know the cost of these attacks on your organisation, including the amount of ransom or payments made to restore access to your systems.

Sections 31(3) and 31(1)(a) applied, please refer to page 1.

4. I would appreciate it if you could break down the figures for each year.

Sections 31(3) and 31(1)(a) applied, please refer to page 1.

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), 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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net