

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.24.3444
Date Received: 21st of March 2024

Information Requested:

Where possible please provide data broken down by calendar year or failing that, by relevant 12-month period (e.g. 2021/22 2022/23 etc.) for which data is available.

1. How many times has your organisation experienced an attempted cyber-attack in the last two financial years?

This information is exempt under Section 31 (1a) of the Freedom of Information Act as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust believe that releasing this information would enable cyber criminals to identify and take advantage of any weaknesses within the security of trust services. This would put patient & trust information at risk, including clinical, financial, and sensitive personal data. We therefore apply section 31(1)(a). Section 31 is a qualified exemption, so we have considered the public interest, but we believe that on this occasion the risk to data outweighs the public interest in cyber security concerns.

2. Have you ever reported any cyber-related incidents to the NCSC and if so, how many in the last two financial years?

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3. Thinking about cyber-attacks where the criminal was able to obtain data or disable systems, how much have these cost the organisation?

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4. How much of the organisation's total annual budget is spent on cyber support, protection and computer systems?

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5. How many people are employed by the organisation to oversee cyber support and programmes?

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I would be grateful if you could provide this information in an electronic format.

Applied Exemption:

31 Law enforcement.

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,
- (c) the administration of justice,
- (d) the assessment or collection of any tax or duty or of any imposition of a similar nature,
- (e) the operation of the immigration controls,
- (f) the maintenance of security and good order in prisons or in other institutions where persons are lawfully detained,
- (g) the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2),
- (h) any civil proceedings which are brought by or on behalf of a public authority and arise out of an investigation conducted, for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2), by or on behalf of the authority by virtue of Her Majesty's prerogative or by virtue of powers conferred by or under an enactment, or

(i) any inquiry held under the [F1Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016] to the extent that the inquiry arises out of an investigation conducted, for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2), by or on behalf of the authority by virtue of Her Majesty's prerogative or by virtue of powers conferred by or under an enactment.

(2) The purposes referred to in subsection (1)(g) to (i) are—

- (a) the purpose of ascertaining whether any person has failed to comply with the law,
 - (b) the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper,
 - (c) the purpose of ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise,
 - (d) the purpose of ascertaining a person's fitness or competence in relation to the management of bodies corporate or in relation to any profession or other activity which he is, or seeks to become, authorised to carry on,
 - (e) the purpose of ascertaining the cause of an accident,
 - (f) the purpose of protecting charities against misconduct or mismanagement (whether by trustees or other persons) in their administration,
 - (g) the purpose of protecting the property of charities from loss or misapplication,
 - (h) the purpose of recovering the property of charities,
 - (i) the purpose of securing the health, safety and welfare of persons at work, and
 - (j) the purpose of protecting persons other than persons at work against risk to health or safety arising out of or in connection with the actions of persons at work.
- (3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in subsection (1).

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>