

| REQUEST | 16449 | RESPONSE |
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| | <p>I am writing to submit a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information regarding cyberattacks/cyber breaches experienced by your local council over the past five years.</p> <p>Specifically, I am requesting the following information for each year from 2019 to 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The total number of cyberattacks detected or reported to you for each year (and month if possible) between and including 2019 and 2024. 2. A breakdown of the types of cyberattacks experienced, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phishing attacks • Distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks • Malware infections • Ransomware attacks • Insider threats • Other types of cyber threats, if applicable. <p>If possible, please provide the data in a tabulated format, clearly indicating the number of cyberattacks for each year and the type of attack. If providing a breakdown of the types of cyberattacks isn't possible, please provide any available information on the most common or significant types of cyberattacks experienced by the local authority during the specified period.</p> | <p>The Council confirms that it holds this information. The status of cyber-attacks against the council is being withheld from disclosure. Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) states that information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.</p> <p>Disclosure under the FoIA is deemed to be disclosure to the world at large, i.e. placing it in the public domain. The council must take steps to avoid malicious attack on its infrastructure, we therefore believe that the exemption at section 31(1)(a) of the FoIA is engaged.</p> <p>This exemption is subject to a Public Interest Test. Whilst the Council acknowledges the inherent public interest in transparency in its activities, it believes in this case the public interest in protecting the personal and sensitive data held on its systems is of more significance. Furthermore, the cost to the public purse of responding to cyber attacks adds to the balance of arguments against disclosure.</p> <p>Taking these factors into consideration, the Council assesses the public interest is not in favour of disclosure.</p> |