

REQUEST	16290	RESPONSE
	<p>I am writing to politely request the following data under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) on cyber attacks affecting Wigan Metropolitan Borough. 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many times has your organisation experienced an attempted cyber-attack in the last two financial years? 2. Have you ever reported any cyber-related incidents to the NCSC and if so, how many in the last two financial years? 3. Thinking about cyber-attacks where the criminal was able to obtain data or disable systems, how much have these cost the organisation? 4. How much of the organisation's total annual budget is spent on cyber support, protection and computer systems? 5. How many people are employed by the organisation to oversee cyber support and programmes? 	<p>The Council confirms that it holds this information. The information that allows the council to maintain a mature Cyber security environment 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. Taking these factors into consideration, the Council assesses the public interest is not in favour of disclosure.</p>