



**Wigan<sup>♥</sup>  
Council**

## **REQUEST 19219**

Please could I request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the number of cyber attacks your local authority has been subject to for each of the past ten years, beginning with 2015.

## **RESPONSE**

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.

Disclosure under the FoIA is deemed to be disclosure to the world at large, i.e. placing it in the public domain. Disclosure of the requested information to the public would be valuable information to potential cyber criminals allowing them to identify the security framework and to identify possible weaknesses in cyber security processes.

We therefore believe that the exemption at section 31(1)(a) of the FoIA is engaged

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. Taking these factors into consideration, the Council assesses the public interest is not in favour of disclosure.