



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI609944205

Thank you for your request for information relating to cyberattacks/cyber breaches.

You have requested the following information:

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.

Specifically, I am requesting the following information for each year from 2019 to 2024:

- 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:**
 - o Phishing attacks**
 - o Distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks**
 - o Malware infections**
 - o Ransomware attacks**
 - o Insider threats**
 - o Other types of cyber threats, if applicable.**

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.

The Council under Section 31(3) neither confirms nor denies whether the information you have requested exists or is held by us.

The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) and Section 31 (3) of the FOIA Act 2000. Section 31 of the FOIA relates to Law Enforcement and Section 31(3) removes the public authority's duty to confirm or deny whether information is held if to do so would, or would be likely to prejudice law enforcement.

It is the Council's view that the confirmation or denial of the possession of information relating to the Council's cyber resilience, would be likely to compromise the Council's information security strategies by giving cyber criminals insight into vulnerabilities which may, or may not, exist.

Section 31(3) is a qualified exemption, as such we have gone on to perform a public interest test in order to assess the public interest arguments for and against declaring whether or not the requested information is held.

For Disclosure:

- Confirmation of possession would demonstrate a commitment to transparency with regard to the Council's undertaking and could provide assurance that the council have robust IT infrastructure in place.

Against Disclosure:

- Maintaining the integrity and security of the Council's systems.
- Preventing cyber-attacks and similar against the Council systems.

Revealing the information may assist cyber criminal's insight into not only the strengths of the Council's cyber security, but also any potential weaknesses that may exist. This could ultimately result in a future cyber-attack. Cyber security measures are in place to protect the integrity of personal and sensitive personal information.

The occurrence of a future cyber-attack would prejudice the Council's legal duty to safeguard personal information from loss, theft, inappropriate access or destruction, which is why Section 31 has been employed in this case.

On balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in confirming or denying whether information is held and therefore the Council neither confirms nor denies, whether this information is held.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to

your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance