



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI661808681**

Thank you for your request for information relating to data breaches and responses.

You have requested the following information:

1. How many data breaches has your organisation experienced in the past 36 months from today's date?

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=553&MIId=12767&Ver=4>

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=553&MIId=13049&Ver=4>

The documents to access are entitled Information Governance Annual Report

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

2. What types of data (e.g., personal, financial, health records) were compromised in these breaches, if any occurred?

Please refer to Question 1.

3. Did any of these breaches include ransomware attacks?

Data protection and backup strategies

4. How frequently does your organisation back up critical data and systems?

5. Are backups stored in an immutable format to prevent tampering or encryption by malicious actors?

6. Do you plan to apply Zero Trust best practices to your backup storage strategy?

7. Which backup management software and backup storage solutions do you use?

Response and recovery

8. Do you have an incident response plan, and do you regularly use it?

9. How long did it take you to recover following a breach or ransomware attack?

10. What percentage of data was recovered?

For Questions 3 to 10, 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.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

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