



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
16 August 2019
Our ref: 5511820

Thank you for your request received on 1 August 2019, for the following information:

I am writing with a request about cyber security under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please tell me how many incidents of cyber-attacks you have recorded since the beginning of 2017?

Of these can you tell me how many incidents were referred to external sources including the police, the National Crime Agency and the National Cyber Security Centre?

And how many of these incidents were handled internally?

Please let me know if you require any further information about this request.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we consider that the following exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below.

I am writing with a request about cyber security under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please tell me how many incidents of cyber-attacks you have recorded since the beginning of 2017?

None.

Of these can you tell me how many incidents were referred to external sources including the police, the National Crime Agency and the National Cyber Security Centre?

None.

And how many of these incidents were hand led internally?

None.

Please let me know if you require any further information about this request.

Please let me know if you require any further information about this request. CHECK is the umbrella term for the National Cyber Security Centre approved penetration test companies and the method in which they conduct a penetration test. Could you please tell me whether you have had a CHECK test in i) 2016/17, ii) 2017/18 and iii) 2018/19?

Yes every year.

Could you also tell me what cyber security do you have aside from CHECK work including the following

i) user education

ii) other penetration tests

iii) internal security team -

iv) other.

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 31 (Law enforcement) subsection (3) applies to the information requested in reference to 31(1)(a) the prevention and Detection of Crime. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

Refusal Notice

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(3) of the Freedom of Information 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 undertakings, 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 whether or not the information requested is held or applicable to

London Borough of Barnet would be likely to offer cyber criminals 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 cyberattack.

One of the reasons that cyber security measures are in place is to protect the integrity of personal and sensitive personal information.

- It is clear to see how 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.

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.

