



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
11 September 2019
Our ref: 5551180

Thank you for your request received on 14 August 2019, for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from London Borough of Barnet:

- 1. Has the council experienced an attempted cyber-attack in 2019? Please answer yes or no.**
- 2. How many attempted cyber-attacks has the council experienced in 2019 (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)?**
- 3. Has the council experienced a cyber-attack in 2019 that resulted in a loss? Please answer yes or no.**
- 4. How many cyber-attacks has the council experienced in 2019 that resulted in a loss (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)?**
- 5. Please state the cost to the council of the cyber-attacks that the council experienced in 2019 (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)**
- 6. Does the Council purchase insurance via an insurance broker? Please answer yes or no.**
 - o If so, from who?**
- 7. For the year 2018/19 does the Council purchase Cyber Insurance? Please answer yes or no.**
 - o If so, what is the name of the insurer?**
- 8. Please state the premium spend of the insurance product**
- 9. Please state the job title and level/banding for the person who is responsible within the council for purchasing these insurance products**

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined, I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

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 believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

1. Has the council experienced an attempted cyber-attack in 2019? Please answer yes or no.

Yes

2. How many attempted cyber-attacks has the council experienced in 2019 (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)?

Only available for 2019 attempted emails with Malware 2698 - figures are not available for previous years

3. Has the council experienced a cyber-attack in 2019 that resulted in a loss? Please answer yes or no.

Information relating to any successful cyber-attacks which the Council may or may not have experienced is exempt from disclosure under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information act 2000 - Law enforcement . This is because disclosure places the organization at the risk of crime. See Refusal Notice below.

4. How many cyber-attacks has the council experienced in 2019 that resulted in a loss (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)?

See answer to Q3

5. Please state the cost to the council of the cyber-attacks that the council experienced in 2019 (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)

See answer to Q3

6. Does the Council purchase insurance via an insurance broker? Please answer yes or no.

Yes

o If so, from who?

As at 2018/19 the councils insurance brokers were JLT Speciality Ltd

7. For the year 2018/19 does the Council purchase Cyber Insurance? Please answer yes or no.

No

o If so, what is the name of the insurer?

N/A

8. Please state the premium spend of the insurance product

N/A

9. Please state the job title and level/banding for the person who is responsible within the council for purchasing these insurance products

Paul Lawrence, Head of Organisational Resilience (Head of Service - Level 8)

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.