

14 January 2020
Our ref: 5945064

Thank you for your request received on 8 January 2020, for the following information:

Total number of ransomware attacks on your organisation over the last 2 calendar years, broken down by year (2019 and 2018).

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 absolute exemption detailed below applies to all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

We are applying absolute exemption Section 31(1) (a) to all of your request:-

Total number of ransomware attacks on your organisation over the last 2 calendar years, broken down by year (2019 and 2018).

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 31 (Law enforcement) subsection (a) applies to the information requested. 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.

Factors in favour of disclosure

Openness and transparency

* Knowledge that the council has appropriate security of its information and systems

Factors in favour of withholding

Maintaining the integrity and security of the council's systems

* Maintaining the integrity and security of the council's data which includes large volumes of commercially sensitive, personal and sensitive personal data relating to staff and residents

* Preventing cyber-attacks and similar against the council systems.

* We consider that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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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.

The Act states that the information will be exempt "if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice