

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
9 May 2023
Our ref: 9549856

Thank you for your request received on 6 April 2023, for the following information:

CYBER SECURITY/CYBER ATTACK FOI

Q1. Cyberattacks are unwelcome attempts to steal, expose, alter, disable or destroy information through unauthorised access to computer systems. Does your department record the number of cyber-attacks it receives?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q2. If it does record the number of cyber attacks it receives, how many did it receive in the following years?

2020

2021

2022

Q3. Does the department you work for record the total financial cost, e.g. fixing the hack, paying any ransoms, loss of earnings etc of cyber-attacks?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q4. If it does record the number of cyber-attacks it receives, how many did it receive in 2021 and 2022?

2021 2021 2022 2022

Number of attacks Total Value of Attacks in GBP Number of attacks Total
Value of Attacks in GBP

Q5. Does your organisation you work for have a cyber-insurance policy?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q6 Has your cyber-insurance premium increased in the last year.

Yes

No

Don't know

Q7 What is the percentage increase in your cyber-insurance premium?

0-10%

11-20%

21-30%

31-40%

41-50%

51-75%

76-100%

Over 100%

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 of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

CYBER SECURITY/CYBER ATTACK FOI

Q1. Cyberattacks are unwelcome attempts to steal, expose, alter, disable or destroy information through unauthorised access to computer systems. Does your department record the number of cyber-attacks it receives?

Yes

Q2. If it does record the number of cyber attacks it receives, how many did it receive in the following years?

2020

2021

2022

Q3. Does the department you work for record the total financial cost, e.g. fixing the hack, paying any ransoms, loss of earnings etc of cyber-attacks?

Q4. If it does record the number of cyber-attacks it receives, how many did it receive in 2021 and 2022?

2021 2021 2022 2022

Number of attacks Total Value of Attacks in GBP Number of attacks Total Value of Attacks in GBP

For Q2, Q3 and Q4. Section 31 (Law enforcement) subsection (1)(a) applies to the information requested. Please see refusal notice below.

Q5. Does your organisation you work for have a cyber-insurance policy?

Q6. Has your cyber-insurance premium increased in the last year.

Q7. What is the percentage increase in your cyber-insurance premium?

For Q5, Q6 and Q7. The Council's Insurance Team has confirmed the Council does not have a cyber-insurance policy.

Refusal Notice

S31 – Law Enforcement

The information withheld is exempt under section 31(1)(a). The Act states that the information will be exempt "if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice - (a) the prevention or detection of crime"

s31(1)(a) applies to the requested information in part 1 on its own terms, but even if that was the case, the information requested in part 2, when put together with part 1, mean that both elements fall under the exemption. This demonstrates the mosaic effect on a micro level and means that the vulnerability of the council's systems can be expressed as a proportion of all attacks.

Public Interest Test:

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption we need to consider the public interest test.

Factors in favour of disclosure

- It would help transparency and accountability of the council
- It would reassure people about whether our systems are vulnerable or not
- It would provide information about how effective our security systems are

Factors in favour of withholding

- There is an inherent public interest in crime prevention.
- There is a public interest in avoiding the costs (financial, distress, inconvenience, publicity, regulatory) associated with any attacks
- There is a public interest in preventing any threat to the integrity of council data
- There is a public interest in ensuring the council can comply with its duties to take all necessary steps to safeguard data

We believe that the balance of public interest lies in upholding the exemption and not releasing 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 Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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.