

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20200616**  
Date FOI Received: **27/10/2020**  
Department: **Information Digital Services**  
Title: **Cloud data and security**  
Description: **Data breaches and cyber attacks**

**Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)**

- How many cloud data breaches have occurred within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?
- How many cyberattacks have occurred within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?
- How many ransomware attacks have occurred within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?
- How many data loss incidents have occurred as a result of lost or stolen devices storing your organisation's data (such as USB flash drives, Hard Drives, Solid State Drives, mobile phones or laptops) within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?

**Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)**

On inspecting our records and the information which we hold, it would appear that the information requested is covered by an exemption or exemptions contained within the Act. We are required to explain why we believe this to be the case. The information which you have requested is, in our opinion, exempt from a request under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2002 because of the exemption contained in Section 35 of the Act.

While we believe the exemption in Section 31(1)(a) applies in this case, we would still be obliged to release this information in respect of your request except for where the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Hertsmere Borough Council acknowledges the significant public interest in openness and transparency and therefore recognises that any request under Section 1 of the Act is potentially in the public interest. However, in dealing with your request we have taken into consideration whether the public interest is best served by disclosing or withholding the information. Disclosure of this information could potentially facilitate cyber-attacks on the Council, which would not be in the public interest. We are not aware of any particular public interest in the subject matter of your inquiry, which would outweigh maintaining the exemption.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545700  
Website: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards  
Information Services

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