

Ref no: 161271118
From: Commercial
Date: 27/11/18
Subject: Feral Systems in the NHS

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Does your Trust have a policy relating to shadow IT and feral systems? If yes, can you provide a copy of that policy? - **No**

Has your Trust carried out a recent audit of shadow IT and feral systems? - **Yes**

If Yes, can we have a copy of that audit? If No, will you provide an estimate of the number of such systems in your Trust?

The Trust must do its utmost to protect patient and staff information.

Patient information and staff information are the foundations upon which healthcare is built, and the Trust have a clear responsibility to safeguard this information to ensure we are able to provide the necessary care to our service users.

To provide the requested information above would highlight any vulnerability, should any such vulnerability exist (within hardware or software or architecture or Vendor, etc.), within our IT infrastructure which could be exploited for the purposes of ransomware, other malware, or to withhold/disrupt IT functionality within the Trust.

This information relating to the cyber security agenda is likely to assist criminal offenders thereby seriously threatening the effective delivery of healthcare by the Trust. The act of gathering information as requested, in the hacking arena is known as foot-printing and our network architecture is closely protected to at least NHS protect if not NHS Confidential.

Therefore:

Our patients (and staff) must have confidence that their very sensitive personal data will be held securely.

They (patients & staff) must have confidence that we'll be able to provide the services they need.

Providing the specific requested information would put their confidence at risk.

Furthermore, loss of patient and staff data by such an attack would massively impact upon our ability to provide effective healthcare to our service users.

This would be extremely harmful to the public & the services the Trust provides.

In accordance with Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act the Trust will not be releasing the requested information as this would prejudice our ability to resist cyber-attacks.

If you are unable to identify ALL shadow IT and feral systems, will you explain how you intend to meet your obligations under GDPR? – **N/A**

Do you have a picture of how many feral systems adhere to NHS national data standards? - **Yes**

Are shadow systems currently covered under your trust's Cyber Security policies and IG Toolkit? - **Yes**