

Ref no: 056020218
From: Commercial
Date: 02/02/18
Subject: Security monitoring of your IT networks

REQUEST

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the answer to the following questions:

1. Who is responsible for the security monitoring of your IT networks?
 - a) In-house IT team
 - b) Outsourced team
 - c) Not applicable
2. How many times, if any, have you suffered a breach in the last three years as a result of unpatched or outdated software?
3. Have you suffered any downtime as a result of any IT security issues in the last three years, if so which parts of your IT infrastructure were down and for approximately how long?

RESPONSE

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.

Therefore, 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.

And therefore, this would be extremely harmful to the public & the services the Trust provides.

Therefore 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.