

Freedom of Information (FOI) Request
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Climate Change Committee
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Westminster, London,
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w theccc.org.uk

Your request:

Over the last five years,

- How many times has your organisation suffered a ransomware attack?
- Please detail the number of successful and unsuccessful attacks
- In the case of successful attacks, how much downtime did each cause
- Did you pay the ransom?
- How much did the ransom cost?

Our response:

The information you have requested falls under the exemption in section 31 (3) of the FOIA, which relates to the prevention or detection of crime. We have applied section 31 (3) which removes the CCC's duty in section 1 (1) (a) of the FOIA to tell you whether we hold the requested information. We can therefore neither confirm nor deny that CCC holds the information falling within the description specified in your request. This statement should not be taken as an indication that the information you requested is or is not held by the CCC.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in providing the neither confirm nor deny response.

We recognise that there is a public interest in confirming whether information exists concerning ransomware incidents in a government organisation. We understand that information on this area would promote openness and transparency.

However, there is a stronger public interest in neither confirming nor denying whether this information exists as it could aid malicious parties in attempts to attack the IT systems concerned. Revealing whether or not we have incurred any ransomware incidents could provide information to a potential cyber attacker on an organisation's capabilities to respond and defend against attacks. Any attempt to carry out a cyberattack against an IT system is a criminal offence. This

exemption is engaged because either confirming or denying such information is held will prejudice the prevention of crime by facilitating the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out. Such confirmation can be used to aid or plan a cyber-attack and it would potentially have detrimental impact to the running of public services.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on the CCC website, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the CCC website.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. In keeping with our transparency policy, the information released to you will be published on www.theccc.org.uk. Please note that this publication will not include your personal data.

Kind regards,
Climate Change Committee