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Date 2 June 2017

[REDACTED]

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which was received by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 11 May 2017. Your email outlined the following request:

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to cyber attacks on your organisation.

To be clear, by "cyber attack" I am referring to the unauthorised external accessing or deliberate disruption of a computer system or a device owned and/or operated by your organisation. Types of cyber attack could include, but are not limited to: ransomware, denial of service, phishing and spear phishing.

By data, I refer to any information held on your computer systems or devices. Please could you answer the following:-

- 1) Does your organisation keep an incident log of cyber attacks?
- 2) How many cyber attacks - attempted and successful - were recorded against your organisation in the last three financial years (i.e. 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17)?
- 3) Where cyber attacks were successful, what kind and amount of data, if any, was lost or stolen? Was it confidential?
For each case, please confirm:
- 4) The type of attack (e.g. ransomware, denial of service etc.
- 5) What demand, for example a Bitcoin payment, was made to resolve the attack? Did your organisation comply?

6) Whether the attack was reported to police or other responsible authority?
To the best of your knowledge, was the attacker traced/convicted?

If possible, please provide this information in Excel spreadsheet format.

Response

A response to your enquiry is set out in the table below. In accordance with your request I have also provided a copy of this response in the attached Excel workbook.

Question	Answer	Additional Information
1) Does your organisation keep an incident log of cyber attacks?	Yes	Our firewall records attempts (e.g. for port scanning). We also raise an internal incident report on specific attacks.
2) How many cyber attacks - attempted and successful - were recorded against your organisation in the last three financial years (i.e. 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17)?	1	2016 - One laptop was infected with ransomware.
3) Where cyber attacks were successful, what kind and amount of data, if any, was lost or stolen? Was it confidential? For each case, please confirm:	0	No data was lost or stolen as a result of this attack.
4) The type of attack (e.g. ransomware, denial of service etc.	1	Ransomware.
5) What demand, for example a Bitcoin payment, was made to resolve the attack? Did your organisation comply?	1	Bitcoin was requested, but the HTA did not comply with the request.
6) Whether the attack was reported to police or other responsible authority? To the best of your knowledge, was the attacker traced/convicted?	No	Police were not contacted as infection was due to staff member visiting a particular infected website i.e. it was not an incoming attack targeting the HTA specifically.

Further information

If you are unhappy with the way the HTA has handled your request for information in this case, you may in the first instance ask us for an internal review by writing to us at the above postal or email address.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have the right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, at the address below. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

