

RE: Freedom of Information Request 201718 / 058 – Ransomware

Your Query	Date of Request	May 2017
<p>Under Freedom of Information legislation, I'd like to know how many times your IT department (or the IT departments of hospitals, surgeries etc. under your purview) has dealt with "ransomware" viruses in the last five years (2012/13-2016/17)?</p> <p>Over the same period, how many times have you paid "ransoms" as a result. Please provide a total per year. Please also provide the amount of money spent each year.</p>		
Response		
<p>We are withholding this information under Section 24 (1) (National Security) of the Freedom of Information Act and Section 31(1) (a) of the Act (law enforcement) which covers all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime. Both section 24 and 31 are qualified exemptions, which means they are subject to a public interest test. Under Section 24 (1) we consider that disclosure would not be in the interest of the Boards' security. Disclosing details about cyber-attacks, including the frequency and damage caused by such attacks, could allow individuals to assess the strength of our defenses. The public interest arguments against disclosure under Section 31 (1) (a) are similar. Any attempt to hack into an IT system is a criminal offence. Disclosing this information could aid, and indeed encourage, a criminal who was intent on launching an attack on the Department's ICT systems and could expose the Board to potential threats such as targeted e-crime. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency. We also appreciate that disclosure of this information would provide information on the scale of threat posed by cyber attacks. However, for the reasons outlined we have concluded that the balance of public interest favours withholding this information.</p>		

I hope this helps with your request.

NHS Orkney is a small remote and rural health board within Scotland. All responses to Freedom of Information requests are collated in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Orkney has dealt with your request, you have a right to ask for a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

A request for review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and NHS Orkney will reply within 20 working days of receipt. Review requests should be sent in writing to Dr Louise Wilson, Director of Public Health, NHS Orkney, Garden House, New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1BQ or by e-mail via ork-hb.foirequests@nhs.net.



Our community, we care, you matter....

Orkney NHS Board Headquarters:
Garden House, New Scapa Road,
Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1BQ
Chair: Ian Kinniburgh
Chief Executive: Cathie Cowan



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Orkney NHS Board is the common name of Orkney Health Board

Requests for appeal should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS. Telephone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611, e.mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info.

FOI responses (subject to the removal of personal information) are published on NHS Orkney's website at: <http://www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk/article.asp?page=13&parent=5>.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan McLaughlin
Freedom of Information Officer
NHS Orkney



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