

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:

The date range for the requests is from 2018 to present day. The data shall include a breakdown by year and by individual departments (e.g. separate departments, agencies, or public bodies within the main government agency), if applicable.

1. How many malicious emails have been successfully blocked?
2. What percentage of malicious emails were opened by staff?
3. What percentage of malicious links in the emails were clicked on by staff?
4. How many ransomware attacks were blocked by the department?
5. How many ransomware attacks were successful?

Our response:

The information you have requested in part 1 of your request is not held by the CCC. The CCC procures its IT services from the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra). Due to the way this information is held within the Defra system, Defra are not able to isolate CCC data from core Defra data.

The information you have requested in parts 2 to 5 of your request falls under the exemption in section 31(3) of the FOIA, which relates to the prevention or detection of crime. Defra have applied section 31(3) which removes Defra'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 Defra 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 Department.

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

We recognise that there is a public interest in confirming whether information exists concerning cyber-attacks. We understand that information in this area would promote openness and transparency.

However, there is a stronger public interest in neither confirming nor denying whether information exists about the nature and success or failure of cyber-attacks as it could aid malicious parties in attempts to attack the IT systems concerned. Revealing whether or not we have incurred any cyber-attacks could provide information to a potential cyber attacker on a Department's capabilities to respond and defend against attacks. Any attempt to carry out a cyber-attack 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 impacts 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