

Date: Monday, 02nd October 2023
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5963

Sid Watkins Building
Lower Lane
Fazakerley
Liverpool L9 7BB
Tel: 01515253611
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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5963

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 02nd October 2023.

Your request was as follows:

1. In 2023, what annual cybersecurity budget has been allocated to your NHS Trust?

[I can confirm that the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust do not have a dedicated Cyber budget.](#)

2. Can you also provide your Trust's annual cybersecurity budget for the years:

- a. 2022
- b. 2021
- c. 2020
- d. 2019
- e. 2018
- f. 2017

[I can confirm that the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust do not have a dedicated Cyber budget.](#)

3. In 2023, how is your annual cybersecurity budget spent:

- a. What percentage goes towards cybersecurity training for employees?
- b. What percentage goes towards technology investments?
- c. What percentage goes towards employee resources for your cybersecurity team?

[N/A](#)

4. How many employees work in your NHS Trust?

[1548](#)

5. How many employed, full-time members of staff make up your NHS Trust's cyber/infosecurity team?

[The WCFT do not have dedicated team members, this is a shared responsibility.](#)

6. How many hours of cybersecurity training are employees of your NHS Trust required to undertake every year?

This is dependent on courses/budget for team members, all staff undergo mandatory security training within ESR and cyber security is included in induction for all staff.

7. Has your NHS Trust paid any ransom demands to cybercriminals in the last five years?

a. If yes, how much did you pay in total?

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 31(1a) - The prevention or detection of crime

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We cannot provide personal information requested as your query on the grounds that the withheld information could be used to facilitate criminal acts such as identity fraud, theft of physical assets from a deceased's estate and criminal trespass. It points out that the requested information directly identifies deceased individuals in circumstances which could suggest that they did not leave relatives and did not leave a will. Consequently The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust asserts that disclosure of the requested information could make the assets and identity of those deceased persons vulnerable.

Public Interest Test

To use this exception we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the public interest test are as follows:

Factors in favour of disclosure:

- Disclosure of the data could potentially raise awareness of the general issue, as well as specific cases, increasing the number of cases where genuine beneficiaries can be identified.
- Disclosure of the data supports the general public interest in the transparency, accountability and general understanding of the delivery of public services.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- Disclosure of the exempted data will make it easier for the perpetration of criminal activities against the general public interest in a crime free society, as well as the public concern regarding the efficient use of police resources. Specifically, the theft of the identity of an individual through use of the disclosed data allows those intent on criminal activity the freedom to move around the country and instigate numerous criminal acts. The resources to resolve any criminal activity and track down the perpetrator will either need to be diverted away from other police activity, or will increase the overall cost to the public purse.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

8. Has your NHS Trust had any patient records compromised / stolen by cybercriminals in the last five years?

a. If yes, how many records were compromised / stolen?

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Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5963 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information