

24 October 2023

Annual Cybersecurity Budget

| Ref | Request | Information |
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| 1 | In 2023, what annual cybersecurity budget has been allocated to your NHS Trust? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 2 | Can you also provide your Trust's annual cybersecurity budget for the years: | |
| 2a. | 2022 | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 2b. | 2021 | |
| 2c. | 2020 | |
| 2d. | 2019 | |
| 2e. | 2018 | |
| 2f. | 2017 | |
| 3 | In 2023, how is your annual cybersecurity budget spent: | |
| 3a. | What percentage goes towards cybersecurity training for employees? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 3b. | What percentage goes towards technology investments? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 3c. | What percentage goes towards employee resources for your cybersecurity team? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 4 | How many employees work in your NHS Trust? | Information published in Trust Annual Reports https://belfasttrust.hscni.net/about/publications/#89-27-annual-reports |
| 5 | How many employed, full-time members of staff make up your NHS Trust's cyber/infosecurity team? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 6 | How many hours of cybersecurity training are employees of your NHS Trust required to undertake every year? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 7a. | Has your NHS Trust paid any ransom demands to cybercriminals in the last five years? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |

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| 7b. | If yes, how much did you pay in total? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 8a. | Has your NHS Trust had any patient records compromised / stolen by cybercriminals in the last five years? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |
| 8b. | If yes, how many records were compromised / stolen? | * Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat |

*All of this information is exempt from release under Section 31(1)(a) - Law Enforcement and Section 43 – Commercial Interests.

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority’s systems, which would make it more vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime.

Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). Disclosure of the requested information would leave Belfast Trusts digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. This would compromise Belfast Trust’s ability to provide Health and Care Services and carry on business-as-usual, should the digital systems be compromised.

Both of these exemptions are Qualified Exemptions and are therefore subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT).

I can confirm that we have now carried out a PIT and the outcome is to maintain both exemptions and withhold the information from release.