

Date: 07/03/2023

Case reference: CAM4789

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information dated 22/02/2023 about **cyber standards, compliance, staff roles, cybersecurity priority, software contracts and budget**. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested. However, we are withholding some of the information because it is excepted as explained below. We have explained where we are withholding information and what exception applies. Please see the refusal notice below which explains how and why it applies.

Please could you provide answers to the following questions:

1. Which standards does your council currently adhere to (ie. ISO 27001, Cyber Essentials etc.)

This information is exempt. Please see the exemption notice set out below.

2. Which team/department/individual is responsible for managing compliance?

The teams responsible are the Information Security and Data Protection teams.

3. If compliance is managed by an internal staff member, what role(s)

This is the responsibility of the above teams.

4. Has cybersecurity been set as a priority for 2023?

Yes, cybersecurity has been set as a priority for 2023.

5. What software / systems does your council currently use to manage your compliance, and any related documentation?

This information is exempt. Please see the exemption notice set out below

6. If software / a system is currently in place, when does the current contract with that supplier expire?

This information is exempt. Please see the exemption notice set out below

7. If software / a system is currently in place, when did it last go out for procurement?

This information is exempt. Please see the exemption notice set out below

8. What is your current budget for compliance & compliance solutions?

This information is exempt. Please see the exemption notice set out below

Refusal Notice

The exemption that applies is:

section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

We do not release information about ICT Systems, standards, software. contracts or related issues that could affect our cyber security. This is because we consider disclosing this information would make the council a target of crime. Therefore, this information is exempt from disclosure under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 31(1)(a) says that we do not need to provide information that would be likely to prejudice the functions of law enforcement - the prevention and detection of crime.

Camden believes that releasing this information would increase the likelihood of criminals using the information to target attacks against public bodies. For example, releasing this information may make the council a more attractive target for cyber or ransomware attacks.

Public Interest Test:

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption we need to consider the public interest test.

Factors in favour of disclosure:

- It would help transparency and accountability of the council
- It could show how effective our cyber security is

Factors in favour of withholding:

- There is an inherent public interest in crime prevention.
- There is public interest in avoiding the costs (financial, distress, inconvenience, publicity, regulatory) associated with any cyber or ransomware attacks
- There is public interest in preventing any threat to the integrity of council data
- There is public interest in ensuring the council can comply with its duties to take all necessary steps to safeguard data

We believe that the balance of public interest lies in upholding the exemption and not releasing the information.

Further Information

We do not give our consent for any names and contact details provided in this response to be sent marketing material. Any such use will be reported to the ICO as a breach of General Data Protection Regulations and the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations.

Why not check our Portal [Open Data Camden](#) before making a new request as your question may already be answered by a previous [FOI response](#) or in one of our many useful and interesting datasets.

Your Rights

If you are not happy with how your response was handled you can request an Internal Review within 2 months of this letter by email to foireviews@camden.gov.uk or post: Information and Records Management Team, London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE. Please quote your case reference number. If you are not satisfied with the Internal Review outcome you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at icocasework@ico.org.uk, Telephone: 0303 123 1113, live chat <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/live-chat/> or webform <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>. The ICO website <https://www.ico.org.uk> may be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Williams
Information Rights Officer