Date: 01 October 2019
Our reference: FOI13226
Email: foi@camden.gov.uk

Information and Records Management
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London Borough of Camden
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Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information dated 12 September 2019 about cyber security. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information 2000 (FOIA 2000).

Response

The Council holds the information requested. However, we are withholding the information because it is exempt under the FOIA 2000. We have stated what exemption applies. Please see the refusal notice at the end - which explains how and why the exemption applies.

Response

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from London Borough of Camden:

1. **Has the council experienced an attempted cyber-attack in 2019? Please answer yes or no.**
2. **How many attempted cyber-attacks has the council experienced in 2019 (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)?**
3. **Has the council experienced a cyber-attack in 2019 that resulted in a loss? Please answer yes or no.**
4. **How many cyber-attacks has the council experienced in 2019 that resulted in a loss (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)?**
5. **Please state the cost to the council of the cyber-attacks that the council experienced in 2019 (up to 30.06.2019), 2018 (full year) and 2017 (full year)**
6. **Does the Council purchase insurance via an insurance broker? Please answer yes or no.**
    - **If so, from who?**
7. **For the year 2018/19 does the Council purchase Cyber Insurance? Please answer yes or no.**
    - **If so, what is the name of the insurer?**
8. **Please state the premium spend of the insurance product**
9. **Please state the job title and level/banding for the person who is responsible within the council for purchasing these insurance products**

Information has been withheld because we consider it to be exempt information under Section 31(3) of the Act. The council under section 17(4) and section 31(3) neither confirms nor denies whether the information exists or is held.

Refusal Notice

The exemption that applies is:

section 31: prejudicial to law enforcement

It is the council's view that the confirmation or denial of the possession of information relating to the council's cyber resilience, would be likely to compromise the council's information security strategies by giving cyber criminals insight into vulnerabilities which may, or may not, exist. Section 31(3) is a qualified exemption, as such we have gone on to perform a public interest test in order to assess the public interest arguments for and against declaring whether or not the requested information is held.

Public interest arguments for disclosure:

- confirmation of possession would demonstrate a commitment to transparency with regard to the council's undertakings, and could provide assurance that the council have robust IT infrastructure in place

Public interest arguments for withholding information:

- maintaining the integrity and security of the council's systems
- preventing cyber-attacks and similar against the council systems.
- revealing whether or not the information requested is held or applicable to london borough of camden would be likely to offer cyber criminals insight into not only the strengths of the council's cyber security, but also any potential weaknesses that may exist. this could ultimately result in a future cyberattack.
- one of the reasons that cyber security measures are in place is to protect the integrity of personal and sensitive personal information.
- it is clear to see how the occurrence of a future cyber-attack would prejudice the council's legal duty to safeguard personal information from loss, theft, inappropriate access or destruction, which is why Section 31 has been employed in this case

On balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in confirming or denying whether information is held and therefore the council neither confirms nor denies whether this information is held

Further Information:

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 casework@ico.org.uk telephone 0303 123 1113, or post to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. The ICO website www.ico.org.uk may be useful.

Yours sincerely

Peter Williams
Information and Records Management Officer

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