London Borough of Camden
Information and Records Management
Judd Street
London.
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e-mail:
foi@camden.gov.uk

Date: 02/12/2021
Case reference: CAM2484

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information dated 15/11/2021 about **malicious emails and ransomware attacks**. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council neither confirms nor denies whether the information is held. This is because it is exempt as explained below. We have explained what exemption applies. Please see the refusal notice at the end which explains how and why it applies.

Please find below my FOI request regarding malicious emails sent to the council.

The date range for the requests is from 2018 to present day. The data shall include a breakdown by year.

1. How many malicious emails (e.g. phishing 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?

5. How many ransomware attacks were successful?

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

Refusal Notice

The exemption that applies is:

Section 31: Prejudicial to law enforcement

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.

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.

The public interest arguments for disclosure are:

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

The public interest arguments against disclosure are:

- 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 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.

We have decided that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. This letter acts as a refusal notice under the terms of the Act.

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 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 Rights Officer