

4 April 2023

Case Reference: IC-222295-K9Z8

Request

On 20 March 2023 you made the following request:

Since 1st March 2022, how many cyberattacks in total have been reported by companies in each of the following sectors:

- *Manufacturing*
- *Public Sector*
- *Finance*
- *Technology & Telecommunication*
- *Healthcare*
- *Retail*
- *Logistics & Transportation*
- *Metals & Electronics*
- *Education*
- *Construction*

We have dealt with your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Response

We hold information that falls within scope of your request.

Information withheld: FOIA section 21

Some of this information has already been published on our website and is available on the links below:

[Personal data breach cases - data sets](#)

The above webpage contains datasets that detail incidents reported to the ICO by data controllers. These can be filtered by cyber incidents and by sector, or by the other information provided in the datasets.

[Cyber investigations](#)

The above webpage contains datasets that detail cyber incidents and investigations handled by our Cyber Investigations team.

Because the information we hold in relation to this request is already reasonably accessible to you, technically it is withheld under section 21 of the FOIA. Section 21 states that we don't need to provide you with a copy of information when you already have access to it.

Please note that the categories you have specified in your request do not exactly match those we use to record the information. For example we do not hold information about cyber incidents under categories such as Public Sector or Technology & Telecommunications, but we do hold lists of incidents for Manufacturing. For other categories, such as Finance, there are close equivalents within our datasets, and in most cases the name of the data controller is also provided.

Information withheld: FOIA section 22

We intend to publish the remainder of the information you have requested (i.e. the more recent cases not covered by the above). This will be published on the same web page in due course.

This means that it is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the FOIA.

This is not an absolute exemption, which means we must consider the public interest in withholding the information.

The factors in favour of disclosing the information are:

- Public interest in the cyber issues reported to the ICO by organisations within different sectors

The factors in favour of withholding the exemption are:

- Large volumes of data would need to be checked and collated in order to respond to this request which would not be an efficient use of the ICO's resources when this information is due to be published shortly
- The ICO has an established history of disclosing this information every year meaning the public can have confidence that it will be published within a reasonable period of time
- The datasets we regularly publish provide information about self-reported breaches in a user friendly way, which can be filtered according to the needs of different users and will provide a much more useful overview than could be provided in response to a single request with more specific criteria

Having considered these factors, we are satisfied that it is appropriate to withhold the information.

Next steps

Please come back to us in the first instance if you would like a clarification or a review of the way your request has been handled. If you remain dissatisfied you can then request a review of our decision under the FOIA or make a complaint about how your request has been handled by writing to the Information Access Team at the address below or email icoaccessinformation@ico.org.uk.

Your request for internal review should be submitted to us within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the discretion of the Commissioner.

If having exhausted the review process you are not content that your request or review has been dealt with correctly, you have a further right of appeal to this office in our capacity as the statutory complaint handler under the legislation. To make such an application, please write to our FOI Complaints & Appeals Department at the address below or visit our website if you wish to make a complaint under the Freedom of Information Act.

A copy of our review procedure can be accessed from our website [here](#).

Your rights

Our [privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us and what your rights are, with a specific entry, for example, for [an information requester](#). Our retention policy can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely,



Information Access Team
Risk and Governance Department, Corporate Strategy and
Planning Service
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Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

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**For information about what we do with personal
data see our [privacy notice](#)**