

20 March 2024

Reference number: IC-289566-P1M5

Request

You asked us: *"I wish to make a freedom of information request to gain information about how your organisation operates. The specific information I am seeking is as follows:*

The number of data breaches by ICO staff, by month, for the calendar year 2023.

If possible, this analysis should be by staff grade / seniority."

We received your request on 21 February 2024.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

Our response

Having searched our records, we can confirm that we hold information in the scope of your request.

Please find attached a spreadsheet that provides you the information you have requested.

Where a data breach is listed as 'unclear' this is because, from the information we hold, it is not possible to determine what the grade the member of staff is.

We also have some additional information to give this information context. The ICO sends approximately 140,000 emails each month, so while approximately 10 of those each month would appear to result in a data breach, this an extremely small percentage.

As well as this, the ICO encourages staff to report all suspected data breaches no matter how minor. This means that it is likely that we have recorded some data breaches that we did not necessarily need to.

We would also like to advise that none of the data breaches recorded were assessed as being likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of natural

persons. This means that none of the data breaches that have occurred would be reportable to the ICO as the regulator.

Lastly, in the interests of transparency, we would like to advise that this is not all of the security incidents that the ICO holds but are the ones which have been classed as a data breach.

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full [review procedure](#) on our website.

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint](#) through our website.

Your information

Our [privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and sets out [your rights](#). Our [Retention and Disposal Policy](#) details how long we keep information.

Yours sincerely



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