

22 April 2024

## Case Reference IC-296056-L1F7

### Request

You asked us:

*"1. How many Data Breaches have there been within local UK councils in 2022, 2023 and 2024 so far? (As of March 2024)*

*1a) Can these be broken down into incident type? For example, of these, how many instances where data was emailed to incorrect recipient? How many cases of loss/theft of device containing personal data etc."*

We received your request on 21 March 2024.

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

### Our response

Please find the requested information in the table below, and through the link provided further below.

This shows data for personal data breach ("PDB") reports received in 2022, 2023 and 2024 from data controllers which are categorised as "Local Government." This category covers UK local councils.

The data stretches from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (the date we received your FOI request).

Please note that the data for 2022 is likely to be incomplete because of our data retention policy for our PDB cases.

Local Government PDBs received				
Incident Type	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Data emailed to incorrect recipient	139	207	41	387
Failure to redact	112	152	37	301
Data posted or faxed to incorrect recipient	112	149	26	287
Other non-cyber incident	102	151	24	277
Unauthorised access	66	100	24	190
Ransomware	13	118	5	136
Loss/theft of paperwork or data left in insecure location	44	52	8	104
Verbal disclosure of personal data	38	41	7	86
Failure to use bcc	25	37	9	71
Hardware/software misconfiguration	12	22	3	37
Other cyber incident	2	23	9	34
Phishing	6	13	11	30
Not Provided	3	16	3	22
Data of wrong data subject shown in client portal	12	5	4	21
Loss/theft of device containing personal data	13	9	0	22
Malware	0	6	1	7
Incorrect disposal of paperwork	2	4	0	6
Brute Force	0	3	1	4
Cryptographic flaw	1	0	0	1
Incorrect disposal of hardware	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	703	1108	213	2024

## Section 21 FOIA

You can also access the information you have requested here:

<https://ico.org.uk/action-weve-taken/data-security-incident-trends/>

When you click on this link, you can go down the page to the Data Security Incidents "Dashboard" and select the "Click to begin" button in the bottom left-hand corner.

This opens up a dashboard where you can filter the PDB incidents. If you filter the results to "Local Government" as the relevant sector, and then you can filter the incidents according to what type of incidents have been reported to us (eg incidents involving emailing an incorrect recipient).

The data stretches from 2022 to 2024 as requested. Please remember that if you are looking for calendar year data you will need to bear in mind that our data is split into financial years. So, for example, to get the totals for the calendar year 2022, you would need to include the data for Quarter 4 of financial year 2021/22 as well.

You can also download a CSV version of the data if you prefer to have the data in a spreadsheet format (you can also convert a CSV to a PDF). However, for convenience, we provided the table above to give the totals.

## 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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