

Date: 20 March 2024

IC-291160-C2Q9

Request

You asked us:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to know the following:

The number of reported cyberattacks to the IC from companies belonging to the SIC codes 61100, 61200 and 61300.

I would like the data broken down for the last 3 years with a December 31st year-end. I would like the data broken down by SIC code.

If you require clarification please do not hesitate to contact me."

We received your request on 29 February 2024. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

Our response

The ICO would become aware of a cyber attack when an organisation reports such an attack as a personal data breach. When we receive this personal data breach, we will assess what actions, if any, we intend to take or that we expect the company to take. However, we do not record SIC codes.

With this in mind, while we do hold personal data breach reports detailing cyber attacks, I can confirm that we do not hold reports of cyberattacks against companies belonging to SIC codes 61100, 61200, or 61300 as we do not record SIC codes.

Advice and assistance

While we do not record such reports against SIC codes, we do record a broad 'sector' and 'subsector'. I believe the most relevant subsector to your request is

“Online Technology and Telecoms”. Although not technically in scope of your request, during my enquiries, the number of ‘cyber incidents’ in this sector was provided to me. As I have it to hand and I can see no reason not to voluntarily disclose it, I have provided it below.

The data only extends back to January 2022, owing to our retention periods. The following is the number of personal data breach reports submitted to the ICO where the incident is logged as a ‘cyber incident’ and the subsector is ‘Online Technology and Telecoms’ by year. The numbers are:

- 2022: 115.
- 2023: 202.
- 2024 (YTD): 38.

You may be interested to know that we do publish data sets of self-reported data breaches on our website. Therefore, you will be able to see what sectors and subsectors we use to categorise information, as well as to see how many reports were made by specific data controllers that may be of interest to you. You can find this data here: [Personal data breach cases - data sets | ICO](#). I hope you find this information helpful.

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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