

16 December 2024

IC-344807-K5K7

Request

You asked us:

"We'll like to kindly request historical data on the annual frequency of data protection breaches and/or compliance level across different sectors of the UK economy before and after the GDPR was introduced on 25 May 2018. This is to enable us assess how organisations have moved on to improve their data protection compliance obligations right from the inception of the Data Protection Act 1998 to date. Such data broken down by sectors of the UK economy (e.g. energy, education, health/hospitals, banking and finance, hotels and hospitality, travels and transportation, digital space and social media, and others) enables a better understanding of critical areas where innovative support tools are necessary to sustain and/or promote compliance going forward."

We received your request on 18 November 2024.

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

Our response

I can confirm that we hold some information in scope of your request.

As part of our regulatory work, we do not monitor the frequency or compliance level of organisations across sectors, but rather respond to information that is brought to us in the form of complaints, personal data breach reports, and other intelligence that we may receive.

We do, however, hold information on data security breaches reported to us and do use this to track the frequency of breaches across sectors. This is only relevant for information held after the UK GDPR was enacted, and specifically for

cases received since Q1 2019. This information can be found on our [data security incident trends dashboard](#). This information is technically exempt under section 21 of the FOIA. Further information on this can be found below.

We do not have a similar tool or monitoring program for data protection complaints. However, information about complaints is proactively published as part of our [data protection complaints and concerns data sets](#). In addition, we publish information regarding our overall regulation of data protection complaints in our [annual reports](#).

It is worth noting that information regarding data protection complaints is deleted two years after case closure in line with our [retention and disposal policy](#). We therefore no longer hold casework information for cases prior to the enactment of the UK GDPR. However, older versions of our casework datasets may be found on [archives on the UK Government Web Archive](#).

Information withheld

FOIA section 21

Information available on our website or other publicly available sources is withheld under section 21 of the FOIA. This section states that we do not need to provide you with information that is already reasonably accessible by means other than through making an FOIA request.

This is an absolute exemption, meaning that no public interest test is required.

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 [here](#).

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



Information Access Team
Strategic Planning and Transformation
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water
Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF
ico.org.uk twitter.com/iconews

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