

18 December 2024

ICO Case Reference IC-345805-T5Y6

Request for information

Request received 21 November 2024:

“please could you consider a new FOI for aggregated figures”.

This request was submitted following our response to previous request, IC-341938-J8S7, which asked for:

“The number of individuals affected by data breaches that were reported to the ICO

The number of individuals affected broken down by type of data compromised categories:

- Data revealing racial or ethnic origin,
- political opinions [sic],
- religious or philosophical beliefs ,
- Trade union membership
- Sex life data
- Sexual orientation data
- Gender reassignment data
- Health data
- Basic personal identifiers
- Identification data
- Economic and financial data
- Official documents
- Location data
- Genetic or biometric data
- Criminal convictions, offences
- Other

I would like the data broken down for each of the last five years with a year-end date of 30 September 2024. If you cannot provide data for this year end date, then please provide data for whichever year-end is used internally.”

Our response to previous request IC-341938-J8S7 referred to the ICO [Data security incident trends](#) dashboard, which provides numbers of people affected by data breaches as a range.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA). This legislation provides public access to recorded information held by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Our response

We do hold some information in scope of your request. Please find attached a file disclosing the requested information that we currently hold in our casework management system. When reporting a personal data breach (PDB) to us, data controllers can indicate the types of data that have been compromised, as listed in the request above, using check boxes. One, some, or all categories of compromised data can be ticked. We have provided each combination of these types of data, and the total number of individuals affected where such data has been breached for each calendar year, as reported by the data controllers.

When providing these figures we must stress that we delete casework records in line with our [Retention and Disposal Policy](#). As such, the attached data is not fully reflective of the past five years.

We must also stress that even where we do still hold complete records, the figures do not reflect the true number of individuals affected by PDBs involving this type of compromised data that have been reported to the ICO. The totals provided in this response depend on figures provided by data controllers when they first discover and report incidents to us. Often they may only be able to provide an estimate at that point. On occasion the data controller may report the maximum number of data subjects who *could* have been affected by any breach. The actual number of data subjects affected often will be different. The figure may have been unknown or miscalculated at the time of report, and it can transpire during the course of any investigation that the true figure is higher or lower.

Nor can the figures provided be viewed as an accurate reflection of the numbers of people affected by all PDBs where such personal data was

compromised. The figures provided only reflect those incidents that were discovered, and were then reported to the ICO.

There is also the possibility of human error when manually inputting the figures in our casework management system. The information in the [Data security incident trends](#) dashboard provides the number of individuals affected as a range to account for these potential discrepancies. Please read the 'Limitations in this release' section of the [Data security incident trends](#) dashboard for further details.

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

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

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

If we perform a review but you remain dissatisfied, you can [raise a complaint](#) to the ICO as regulator of the Freedom of Information Act. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

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

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