

24 March 2025

IC-371006-S5P8

Request

You asked us:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information regarding reported cyber security incidents involving Scottish Housing Associations for the last 5 years or on data that you hold.

- 1. Please provide the total number of cyber security incidents reported to the ICO by Scottish Housing Associations and RSL's.*
- 2. Please provide a breakdown of these reported incidents by severity if possible.*
- 3. Please provide the number of reported incidents per local authority area.*
- 4. To promote transparency, accountability, and improved cyber security in Scottish housing, I request a list of HA/RSL's reporting incidents, while acknowledging data protection concerns. This information is vital due to HA/RSLs' essential services, data handling, financial impact, public trust, regulatory oversight, best practice sharing, and democratic accountability. If providing individual housing association names would cause a data protection issue, this part of the request can be disregarded."*

We received your request on 19 March 2025.

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

Our response

We have interpreted your request to be about personal data breaches reported to the ICO by Scottish Social Housing Associations or Registered Social Landlords where the breach was recorded as a cyber incident.

The ICO does not record "Scottish Social Housing Provider" or "Registered Social Landlord" as a sector. Additionally, we do not categorise the providers by local authority area. To provide you with a copy of this information we would need to review the name of every reporting organisation and conduct research into whether they fall into these categories. Undertaking this task would create data that is not already held by the ICO. Under the FOIA, we are not required to create information for the purposes of answering a request. We are therefore unable to provide you with the information in the granularity that you have requested.

However, we publish details of our cyber related incidents on our website. These datasets provide further information, including the names of the companies that reported the incident.

Details of our data breach cases can be found here: [Personal data breach datasets](#). The information is provided in quarterly spreadsheets.

To assist with searching for the information that you are seeking, you should:

1. Filter the "Is Cyber Incident" column to "yes"
2. Filter the "Sector" column to "Land or Property Services"
3. Review the "Submitted About Account" column for the names of the reporting organisations.

You may then conduct research into whether the reporting organisation is a Scottish social housing provider if you wish.

The data on our website goes back to 2022/23. For previous years, please see the information published in the [National Archives](#).

Because the information is already reasonably accessible to you, technically it is withheld under section 21 of the FOIA.

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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