ico.
Information Commissioner's Office

The ICO exists to empower you through information.

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Request

In relation to the data security incident trends information we publish on our website you asked us:

"I have downloaded the publicly available version of the data from your dashboard, and I would like to inquire whether it would be possible to access the name of the organization responsible for processing personal information in each case."

We received your request on 22 February 2025.

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

Our response

We will hold some information which falls within the scope of your request.

Due to our retention policies we will not necessarily hold the information relating to each data security incident, as we currently publish information dating back to quarter 1 of 2019.

Where we do hold the name of the organisation and could reliably link it to the corresponding line in the dataset published on our website this information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOIA.

Section 44(1)(a) states:

"(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it -

(a) is prohibited by or under any enactment"

The enactment in question is the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA18). Section 132(1) of part 5 of that Act states that:

"A person who is or has been the Commissioner, or a member of the Commissioner's staff or an agent of the Commissioner, must not disclose information which—

(a) has been obtained by, or provided to, the Commissioner in the course of, or for the purposes of, the discharging of the Commissioner's functions,

(b) relates to an identified or identifiable individual or business, and

(c) is not available to the public from other sources at the time of the disclosure and has not previously been available to the public from other sources,

unless the disclosure is made with lawful authority."

Section 132(2) lists circumstances in which a disclosure can be made with lawful authority, however none of them apply here. As a result, the information is exempt from disclosure.

We appreciate that you intend to use the information for research purposes and would treat it confidentially, however, a disclosure under FOIA is made to the world at large and not just to the individual making the request.

As explained on the website, the dashboard and the associated dataset are published as part of our commitment to responsible, proactive publishing of data. To disclose the names of each organisation would not be in line with this and would be in breach of our obligations as set out in section 132 of the DPA18.

I am sorry that we cannot be of more help in this instance, however, the Commissioner and his staff risk criminal liability if they disclose information without lawful authority. The right of access under the FOIA is not sufficient to override these important factors and the information is therefore withheld.

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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For information about what we do with personal data see our privacy notice