

22 July 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference CA126

With reference to your request received on 6 July 2021 reference CA126 please find the response provided below.

Question:

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you to request some information about your IT Cyber Security and decision making. I politely request the following information:

Question 1) Who is the key decision maker for vendor selection of IT security solutions? What are their contact details?

Answer

HR Manager, Martin Jaynes. Martin.jaynes@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Question 2) Who else forms part of the IT security decision making process within the Authority? What are their contact details?

Answer

This is jointly delivered by SOCITM (service provider) with the Monitoring Officer, s73 officer, and HR Manager

HR Manager, Martin Jaynes. Martin.jaynes@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Monitoring Officer, Robert Parkin Robert.parkin@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

S73 Officer, Jon Alsop jon.alsop@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Question 3)**When did you last benchmark/review your IT security provisioning?****Answer**

June 2021

Question 4) How many malicious attempts to breach your IT security defences have you experienced in the last 12months?**Answer**

The Combined Authority does hold the information you have requested but for the reasons set below will not be disclosing it to you.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 [“the Act”] provides that:

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)

The Information Commissioner’s guidance on the commercial interests exemption at section 43 is available at:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1178/commercial-interests-section-43-foia-guidance.pdf>

In order for this exemption to be engaged the following criteria must be met:

- *the actual harm which the public authority alleges would, or would be likely to, occur if the withheld information was disclosed has to relate to the applicable interests within the relevant exemption;*
- *the public authority must be able to demonstrate that some causal relationship exists between the potential disclosure of the information being withheld and the prejudice which the exemption is designed to protect. Furthermore, the resultant prejudice which is alleged must be real, actual or of substance; and*
- *it is necessary to establish whether the level of likelihood of prejudice being relied upon by the public authority is met – ie disclosure ‘would be likely’ to result in prejudice or disclosure ‘would’ result in prejudice.*

The guidance explains that:

“would...prejudice” means that prejudice is more probable than not, ie that there is a more than 50% chance of the disclosure causing the prejudice, even though it is not absolutely certain that it would do so. “Would be likely to prejudice” is a lower threshold. It means that there must be more than a hypothetical or remote possibility of prejudice occurring; there must be a real and significant risk of prejudice, even though the probability of prejudice occurring is less than 50%.

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to public interest considerations.

The Combined Authority concludes that information on security breaches if disclosed would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Combined Authority.

The Combined Authority must therefore consider the balance of public interest in deciding whether to disclose the information. There is clearly a general public interest in public bodies being open, transparent and accountable particularly in the context of the expenditure of public funds.

However there is also a public interest in public bodies being able to maintain secure systems.

On balance the Combined Authority takes the view that the public interest arguments in favour of maintaining the exemption and withholding the information, in particular the arguments about the likely prejudice to both the Authority's and participants' commercial interests, outweigh the public interest arguments in favour of disclosure.

Your request for information is therefore refused on the basis that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the Act.

Question 5) When did you last experience a breach of your IT security defences?

Answer

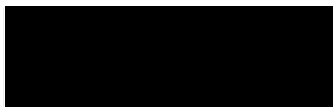
We do not hold this information.

I hope this information is helpful but if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review, you should write to us via our contact us email address – contactus@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk or write a letter to Complaints, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, the Mayor's Office, 72 Market Street, Ely, Cambs CB7 4LS within 40 days of the date of this e-mail.


If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Generally, the ICO will not undertake a review or make a decision on a request until the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely



Governance Assistant



The Mayor's Office
72 Market Street
Ely
Cambs
CB7 4LS