



# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,  
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555

DX41001 ELY Fax: (01353) 665240

[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 22/23-116 please find your question and our response below.

## Request:

Q1. How many times has your council experienced an attempted cyber-attack over each of the past five years? For this and all relevant questions below, please provide data broken down into calendar year including 2022 to date, or failing that, by relevant 12-month period (e.g. 2020/21, 2021/22 etc.)

- 2022
- 2021
- 2020
- 2019
- 2018

Q2. Of these attacks, how many resulted in the criminal being able to obtain data or disable systems?

- 2022
- 2021
- 2020
- 2019
- 2018

Q3. Thinking about cyber-attacks where the criminal was able to obtain data or disable systems, how much have these cost your council in each of the past five years? If possible, please include the sum total of monies lost to hackers, legal costs and GDPR fines.

- 2022
- 2021
- 2020
- 2019
- 2018

Q4. What is the most common type of cyber-attack your council has experienced in 2022 so far? (e.g. phishing, DDoS, ransomware, password attack, malware, insider attacks)

Q5. In the last 12 months have you employed an external expert to give you advice on how to mitigate the risk of cyber-attacks? If you have but not in the last 12 months please state when.

Q6. Does your council currently hold a cyber-insurance policy to protect against the consequences of a cyber-attack?

Q7. If so, have you claimed on this policy?

Q8. Have you increased cyber security in the last year to mitigate the risk of cyber-attacks?

Q9. When did your council last hold training for employees aimed at reducing the role of human error in cyber-attacks and data breaches, e.g. to prevent phishing?

Q10. Where on your corporate risk register is cyber risk ranked?

- We don't have a risk register
- It is not on our risk register
- Outside of the top 10

- Three – ten
- Top three

**Response:**

Q1 – Q8. We acknowledge that we do hold the information to be able to respond to this request, but we are withholding this information under FOI exemption 31(1)(a) – Prevention or Detection of Crime

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;

b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

**Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

c) State why the exemption applies:

**31(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice - (a) the prevention or detection of crime.**

**We do not release information about what IT security systems we have in place, the suppliers and versions of our IT security, how often we update and amend our security, whether we have identified particular issues or vulnerabilities and what we have done to strengthen those. This is because we consider disclosing this information would make the council a target of crime.**

**Section 31(1)(a) says that we do not need to provide information that would be likely to prejudice the functions of law enforcement- the prevention and detection of crime. We feel that releasing this information would increase the likelihood of criminals using the information to target attacks against council systems. For example, knowing when we last updated a security system would allow criminals to know what vulnerabilities existed at that time and target attacks on those.**

**Knowing if East Cambs systems are monitored in a specific way could increase the chances of other our systems being targeted by criminals.**

Q9. We have compulsory Annual Data Protection training for all staff. Modules of this training focus specifically on cyber security.

Q10. Please see <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/audit-committee-26072021> for our Risk Register. ICT security is listed under 'Processes and Systems'

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 22/23-116

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach [foi@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:foi@eastcambs.gov.uk) and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.