

27 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

FOIA Response (02/26)

Thank you for your email of 4 April 2026. We note that you have requested that this email be treated as a FOIA request.

You have requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information for each calendar year from 2020 to 2026 inclusive:

1. The number of cyber security breaches that have being identified that were found to be a result of a malicious threat actor (i.e. not accidental data breach)
2. The breakdown in high-level causes of these breaches as identified by cyber security incident response teams (CSIRTs), for example (but not limited to) unpatched software/hardware, lack of multi-factor authentication (MFA), leaked user credentials, lack of in-transit encryption, etc
3. The number of breaches that occurred that were attributed to a previously known vulnerability to the organisations hardware, software, policies, or processes, for example where system was known to be at risk due to being unpatched or out of support, or security controls were recommended but not enforced, and was defined within the resulting incident response report.
4. The estimated combined costs incurred as a result of cyber security breaches defined in request number one in each year.

No specific details are requested in relation to software/hardware utilisation, but rather high-level causes of breaches. I believe the high-level nature of this request does not allow for the use of s.31(1)(a) of the FOIA as this would not be likely to prejudice the security of your systems or data, as these are historical incidents which have since been dealt with. The public interest in

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understanding breach causes across public sector organisations outweighs the public interest in the exemption.

I would like you to provide the information in Word, Excel, or CSV format.

When dealing with requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'Act'), Estyn's obligations include:

1. Confirming or denying whether it holds information of the description specified in the request; and
2. Communicating the information requested to the applicant.

There are a number of exemptions under the Act that impact these obligations. Estyn is required to consider whether an exemption applies in the context of the information being released into the public domain, not just in the context of the information being released to the particular applicant that has requested the information.

If Estyn releases information in response to a Freedom of Information request, this is essentially a decision that the information can be released in response to any similar request from any member of the public.

Our response to your requests are as follows:

1. The number of cyber security breaches that have being identified that were found to be a result of a malicious threat actor (i.e. not accidental data breach)
0.
2. The breakdown in high-level causes of these breaches as identified by cyber security incident response teams (CSIRTs), for example (but not limited to) unpatched software/hardware, lack of multi-factor authentication (MFA), leaked user credentials, lack of in-transit encryption, etc
Not applicable.

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Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

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Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

3. The number of breaches that occurred that were attributed to a previously known vulnerability to the organisations hardware, software, policies, or processes, for example where system was known to be at risk due to being unpatched or out of support, or security controls were recommended but not enforced, and was defined within the resulting incident response report.
0.
4. The estimated combined costs incurred as a result of cyber security breaches defined in request number one in each year.
0.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you are not satisfied with the decision Estyn has taken regarding your request for information, you are entitled to request that we review the matter. Your request for a review should be addressed to the Feedback and Complaints Manager and received no later than 20 working days after the date of this communication.

If you are still not satisfied, you also have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner through their website:

<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/wales-office/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



FOI case officer

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