



Resolution

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April 2026
FOI_7827

The following information was requested on 4 April 2026:

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

Our Response

Please find below our response to your request for further information.

Question 1

The number of cyber security breaches that were identified as resulting from a malicious threat actor, for each calendar year from 2020 to 2026 inclusive.

During the period requested, NHS Resolution identified **one (1) cyber security incident** attributable to a malicious threat actor.

Question 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

January 2024 – Incident relating to a **zero-day vulnerability**

Question 3

The number of breaches attributed to a previously known vulnerability (e.g. unpatched systems, out-of-support software, or unenforced controls).

The identified incident during the period requested was not attributed to a previously known vulnerability. Accordingly, the number held for this question is: **Zero (0)**

Question 4

The estimated combined costs incurred as a result of the breaches identified in Question 1, for each year.

We can confirm that **no data loss occurred** as a result of the incident. NHS Resolution does not hold recorded information on estimated or combined financial costs arising from the incident identified above.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are not satisfied with the service that you have received in response to your information request, it is open to you to make a complaint and request a formal review of our decisions. If you choose to do this, you should write to [Joanne Appleby](#), Deputy Data Protection Officer for NHS Resolution, within 28 days of your receipt of this reply. Reviews of decisions made in relation to information requests are carried out by a person who was not involved in the original decision-making about the request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of the decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the local complaints procedure. The address of the Information Commissioner's Office is:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
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