

From: Freedom of Information Requests

Sent: 15 August 2025 08:44

To:

Subject: - Fol Response

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 25 July 2025 for information about ICT. Please find attached City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

*Q1 Security Infrastructure - The Council has decided this information is exempt under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 31 exempts information from the right of access under the Freedom of Information Act if disclosure would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. We consider that the disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime as it is believed that disclosing the information would make City of Doncaster Council more vulnerable to cyber-attacks and hackers and the information may contribute to criminal knowledge as it will be publicly available.

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption, the Council is obliged to consider whether disclosure of the information would be in the public interest before refusing to supply the information. Therefore the Council has taken the following factors into account:

Factors for disclosing information

- To release the information would be in the spirit of openness and transparency in which the Council operates
- The information may be of interest to some members of the public
- Members of the public will be more informed about the authority's security infrastructure

Factors for withholding information

- Not releasing the information helps to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the Council's IT infrastructure
- If this information was in the public domain, attempts may be likely to be made to compromise the systems, typically for financial gain or to obtain sensitive corporate and/or personal data
- There is a strong public interest in avoiding the likely prejudice to the prevention of crime. Tackling crime involves a significant strain on public expense and it is in the public interest to ensure that public resources are used cost-effectively
- There has been a publicly known increase in companies being targeted by cyber criminal activity and releasing this information could have a detrimental effect on steps being taken to prevent this
- The information may contribute to criminal knowledge as it will be publicly available
- The Council has a duty to safeguard the information it holds

Taking these factors into consideration, the Council has decided that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh those for disclosing it and we will not be providing the information at this time.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

The City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £49 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Dook

Information Governance Officer

Corporate Resources

City of Doncaster Council

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