

Archived: 20 May 2025 13:23:25  
From: [FOI Responses](#)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Freedom of Information Response [REDACTED]  
Importance: Normal  
Sensitivity: None

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 15 April 2025 for information about data incidents. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

**Question 1:** The number of data breach incidents the council has had in the last three years (between April 6th -April 5th 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) Broken down by years.

**Response:**

Year	Number
2022/2023	139
2023/2024	173
2024/2025	142

**Question 1a:** Of those, how many were cyber-incidents? (Broken down by years as above).

**Response:**

Notice under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION

**Decision:**

After carefully considering your request, the Council has decided to refuse to disclose the information you have asked for under Section 31(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Why does the exemption apply in this case?:**

In this case City of Doncaster Council has determined that the information you have requested is exempt under Section 31(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which allows for authorities to neither confirm nor deny that it holds the requested information in relation to cyber-attacks. Confirming or denying whether the information is held would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime as it is believed that disclosing the information would make City of Doncaster Council more vulnerable to cyber-attacks and hackers. The duty in Section 1 (1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act does not apply by virtue of section 31(3) of that Act. No inference can be taken from this refusal that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

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 confirm/deny 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 cyber security
- \* The information may provide reassurance to those whose data is held by the Council

Factors for withholding information

- \* Neither confirming nor denying the information helps to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the Council's IT infrastructure
- \* If information relating to cyber security 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

- \* 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.

**Question 2:** How many compensation claims have been brought against the council for data breaches in the last three years (between April 6th -April 5th 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) Broken down by years.

**Response:**

Year	Number
2022/2023	0
2023/2024	1
2024/2025	0

**Question 2a:** Of those, how many were settled with compensation?

**Response:** There have been no compensation claims brought against the Council for data breaches in the last three years that were settled with a compensation.

**Question 2b:** Of those, how many were refused?

**Response:** There where one compensation claim brought against the Council for data breaches in the last three years that was refused.

**Question 2c:** How much has the council paid out in compensation for data breach claims in the last three years? Broken down by years as above.

**Response:** The Council has not paid anything out in compensation for data breach claims in the last three years.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £49.00 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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk) Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely,  
Sophie

**Sophie Ormshaw**

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Please treat the content of this e-mail as confidential. If you have received this e-mail and it is not addressed to you please accept my apologies and inform me as soon as possible.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 1:21 PM  
**Subject:** Data Breaches FOI Request

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#)

Dear Council,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you provide the following:

1. The number of data breach incidents the council has had in the last three years (between April 6th -April 5th 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) Broken down by years.
  - 1a) Of those, how many were cyber-incidents? (Broken down by years as above).
2. How many compensation claims have been brought against the council for data breaches in the last three years (between April 6th -April 5th 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) Broken down by years.
  - 2a) Of those, how many were settled with compensation?
  - 2b) Of those, how many were refused?
  - 2c) How much has the council paid out in compensation for data breach claims in the last three years? Broken down by years as above.

**\*\*** By data breaches I refer to any or all information security incidents reported to your team that affect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the Council's data - including those that have been reported to the ICO.

Can this be presented in PDF format if possible.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]