From: FOI
Sent: 22 August 2024 17:09
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 111-24 - Response

Categories: Transferred to Skynet

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 111-24

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is shown in bold below followed by our response.

You have asked for the following information:

1. How many digital systems and suppliers are used in [add department's] processes? How frequently are these systems and supplier relationships reviewed? □ Every 3 months □ Every 6 months □ Annually □ Every 2 years □ Less frequently than every 2 years □ Never □ Other (please specify): _____
2. Has the Electoral Commission experienced any cyber incidents in the last two years (1st of July 2022 – 1st of July 2024)? (Yes/No)
a) If yes, how many cyber incidents occurred?
b) Did any of these incidents result in financial losses? (Yes/No)
If yes, please provide the following details:
i) What was the total estimated financial loss in GBP?
ii) Please indicate the categories of financial losses incurred and provide the estimated amount for each:

- ***Costs for specialist support or consultancy in GBP***
- ***Expenses for new security tools or software in GBP***
- ***Overtime payments for security team members in GBP***
- ***Other direct costs (please specify) in GBP***

c) Did any of these incidents cause operational disruptions? (Yes/No) If yes, what was the total estimated downtime in hours?
d) Were any of the incidents related to foreign interference? (Yes/No) If yes, how many?
3. What's the average response time to detect cyber threats on UK government infrastructure?
4. What's the current budget allocated to the Electoral Commission cybersecurity?

If it looks like the work involved in responding to this FOI will exceed the time permitted under this FOIA, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss how I can reduce this request's scope.

If you have any questions or need more clarification, please contact me.

Our response is as follows:

How many digital systems and suppliers are used in processes?
We currently use 25 Digital systems across the Commission. Many of these solutions are used by more than one department.

How frequently are these systems and supplier relationships reviewed? □ Every 3 months □ Every 6 months □ **Annually** □ Every 2 years □ Less frequently than every 2 years □ Never □ Other (please specify): _____

2. Has the Electoral Commission experienced any cyber incidents in the last two years (1st of July 2022 – 1st of July 2024)?
Yes, this has been publicly announced, and the ICO have also reported their findings on this.

a) If yes, how many cyber incidents occurred? **1**
b) Did any of these incidents result in financial losses? **Yes**

If yes, please provide the following details:

i) What was the total estimated financial loss in GBP? **£85,000**
ii) Please indicate the categories of financial losses incurred and provide the estimated amount for each:
- Costs for specialist support or consultancy in GBP **£85,000**
- Expenses for new security tools or software in GBP **£0 - these solutions were being implemented regardless of the Cyber incident**
- Overtime payments for security team members in GBP **£0**
- Other direct costs (please specify) in GBP **£0**

c) Did any of these incidents cause operational disruptions? **No** If yes, what was the total estimated downtime in hours?
d) Were any of the incidents related to foreign interference? **Yes** If yes, how many? **1**

3. What's the average response time to detect cyber threats on UK government infrastructure?
We do not hold this information for UK government.

4. What's the current budget allocated to the Electoral Commission cybersecurity?
Around £300,000 per annum, however all products now have an aspect of cyber security inbuilt.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request. If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Information Team
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission