

Date: **12 November 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5502**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your requests for information below:

**Your Request and Our Response (in bold)**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust.

1. *In the last 5 years, how many times has your trust/hospital suffered from a ransomware attack? Please provide specific dates (months/years) if possible. **There have been 3 known ransomware attacks to the Trust since 2015. We are unable to provide any further information relating to specific details surrounding these attacks. Please see note below \*\****

**Please note: \*\*The Trust is withholding information with a view that disclosure of how we carry out cyber security across the Trust could potentially place the Trust at risk of cyber security by hackers or any other party. We have therefore carried a public interest test to demonstrate our considerations under Section 31 (Law Enforcement) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**In recent years NHS Trusts have been subjected to various cyber security and ransom attacks; which continues to be the case on a daily basis. The most notably and publicised is the "Winery" attack.**

**The Trust therefore makes Cyber Security and Data Security the number one ICT priority following the manufacturer, security, and NHS recommendations and Guidelines. The Trust ensures it has the tightest governance control. We are constantly updating and upgrading to the latest security recommendations; which are regularly reviewed and tested by independent security experts to ensure that, not only is our infrastructure secure, but ensured we are using and following the correct processes and policies at all times.**

**The Trust is of the view that, if we were to disclose information on the strategies used for cyber security, it could potentially be used**

against the Trust; or could place the Trust at greater risk of a cyber-attack. Section 31(1)(a) “prevention or detection of crime” has been applied to withhold the information where the trust believes that disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime regarding the maintenance of our security strategies and procedures could be potentially threatened. Your request is therefore refused under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. *How much downtime did this cause (in hours)?* **No downtime was caused.**
3. *Did you pay the ransom? If so, how much was the ransom?* **No**
4. *What was the total cost of the incident to your hospital/trust? The total cost of these attacks are usually not financial in these cases although the attacks are based around ransoms hence the title Ransomware. The cost is usually around the required resources to ensure the integrity and security of the Trust’s Network and ICT Services when one of these attacks occur, therefore, taking resource away from their operational duties.*

Please note:

The information we have provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request was received by the Trust.

We hope the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your questions or any issues or concerns. Should you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information team**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust  
Email: [foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk)

**[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]**

**Your Rights**

Should you remain dissatisfied with the response you have received to your request for information, please contact the FOI Team to make a request for an internal review within two months from the receipt date of our response to your original request. You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team  
Great Ormond Street Hospital  
LONDON  
WC1N 3JH

If, however, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review then you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner as the final stage of the FOI process. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF