



Our Ref: 003448/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 03 December 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 15/10/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

SECURITY / CYBERSECURITY:

- 1. What SEIM (Security Event and Incident Management) solution is used by your organisation?*
- 2. When does your SEIM (Security Event and Incident Management) platform license subscription come up for renewal?*
- 3. If the SEIM (Security Event and Incident Management) solution was purchased via third party please disclose the contracting party's details?*
- 4. Do you outsource your security management to a third party (managed security service provider)? If so can you disclose the name of the managed security service provider.*
- 5. When does the current service contract from the current managed security service provider end?*
- 6. Can you provide the email address of the individual that is responsible for your IT Security?*

ICO - breaches:

- 7. How many cyber security breaches has your organisation had over the past 2 yrs?*

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

Leicestershire Police can confirm the below in relation to your request:

1. This information is exempt by virtue of Section 24 and Section 31 as detailed below.
2. Leicestershire Police's SEIM platform is due for renewal in January 2021.
3. The SEIM was not purchased via a third party.
4. Whilst the Force primarily manages its own security, the Force supplement this via a connected service, the National Monitoring Centre (NMC).
5. March 2022
6. This information is exempt by virtue of Section 40 (2) as detailed below.

7. Leicestershire Police have recorded 7 cyber security incidents over the past 2 years. These incidents were unsuccessful in nature, and did not meet the threshold requirements for reporting to the Information Commissioner Office.
- Incidents relating to Spam/phishing emails have not been recorded within the above figures. The Force proactively reject Spam/Phishing emails, whilst some may be delivered successfully to a user, these emails are deleted and blocked to prevent recurrence.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Leicestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption(s) applicable relate to your request are as follows:

- Section 24 (2) – National Security;
- Section 31 (3) – Law Enforcement;
- Section 40 (2) – Personal Information;

These Section are prejudice based, qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Overall harm

ICT is fundamental to how the Police Service manages the technological challenges faced in modern policing. Information that exposes details of the ICT organisation could be used to the advantage of terrorists or criminal organisations and individuals.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S24

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent by providing the information requested could lead to a better-informed public that can take steps to protect themselves

Factors against confirmation or denial for S24

Providing the information relating to Leicesters Police's SEIM solution could allow those minded to commit criminal activity to be aware of the security measures in place and the manner in which it works.

Factors favouring disclosure of information for Section 31

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and by disclosing this information the public would be able to see where public money is being spent and know that the Police are doing as much as they can to ensure security of information held by Leicestershire Police. Revealing this information would enable the public to have some reassurance that the force's ICT infrastructure is robust. This is an issue high on the public agenda and therefore the release of this information would contribute to an informed public debate.

Factors against disclosure of information for Section 31

Disclosure of details relating to the Force's SEIM system would mean that law enforcement could be compromised as those minded to commit crime would be made aware of how security events are handled and managed with Leicestershire Police, which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime. It would expose police resources and create a mosaic effect highlighting 'soft' areas of the country that

could be exploited. This would adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on law enforcement.

Section 40 (2) – Personal Information

Section 40(2) is a class based absolute exemption and as such legislators have identified that there would be harm in disclosure and there is no requirement to evidence this or consider the public interest test. However, as Section 40(2) is engaged and in order to make the exemption absolute we need to evidence that a data protection principle would be breached by disclosure. In this case it would not be fair to process confidential information which could lead to the identification of an individual, therefore the first principle of the Data Protection Act would be breached.

Balance test

Whilst there is a strong public interest in the transparency of policing technology, Leicestershire Police will not divulge information if it is likely that it will compromise the work of the Police Service or place members of the public at risk. Disclosure of the requested information would highlight areas that could be exploited by criminals.

This will adversely affect Leicestershire Police's ability to detect and prevent crime, as it may alter the behaviours of those intent on criminal activity. This in itself could put members of the public at risk and hinder Law Enforcement. It is therefore our belief that the balance test lies in favour of not disclosing the information.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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