Dear [Name]

Freedom of Information request: Cyber Attacks - ref UKRI – 2018/0040

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request submitted on the 11th May 2018 in which you requested the following:

Your Request:

Dear sir or madam,
I would like some information on attempted cyber-attacks upon your organisation over the last three financial years. Please could you list the total number of recorded attacks, broken down by year and by type of attack e.g. malware, denial-of-service, phishing etc. e.g. FY 17-18 1,000 malware, 500 phishing, 500 Denial-of-service. Please detail whether any of these attacks successful of blocked.
Thanks

Our response:

I can confirm that UKRI does hold the information that you have requested. Our response is detailed below:

DETAILED RESPONSE:

Releasing the information requested regarding cyber attacks upon UKRI, as requested, would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime as per Section 31(1)(a) Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to a public interest test. UKRI applied the Public Interest Test to this request as set out below;

Public interest in favour of disclosure:
☐ There is a public interest in favour of the release of the information, to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability, in disclosing information about government or public authority infrastructure and contracts.

Public interest test in favour of withholding the information:
☐ The release of this information would make the UKRI more vulnerable to crime.
☐ The crime in question here would be a malicious attack on the UKRI's computer systems.
☐ The release of this information would be seen to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, by making the UKRI's computer systems more vulnerable to hacking and therefore facilitate the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out.
☐ There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping government or public authority computer systems secure, which would be served by non-disclosure.

UKRI has therefore reached the conclusion that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 31 (1) (a).

I hope this answers your questions.

If you have any queries about this response please contact me, or if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, please write to:

Complaints Officer
UK Research and Innovation
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1FL
Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Enquiry/Information Line: Between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

Further information about the Office of the Information Commissioner can be found at http://www.ico.gov.uk/

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Corporate Information Manager
UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team
Email: foi@ukri.org