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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to ransomware attacks.

You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust. I would like to request under the Freedom of Information Act details on ransomware attacks on your organisation between 2019 and 2024. For the avoidance of doubt, a ransomware attack is a type of cyberattack which prevents an organisation accessing their own files or computer networks after criminals manage to infect the system with malware. These type of attacks involve the criminals demanding payment for a key to restore access to the files.

In particular, I would like to know the number of ransomware attacks on your organisation between 2019 and 2024.

I would like to know the number of successful attacks on your system. I would also like to know the cost of these attacks on your organisation, including the amount of ransom or payments made to restore access to your systems.

I would appreciate it if you could break down the figures for each year.

Trust response:

The Trust has a dedicated Cyber Security team and has purchased and installed many different solutions to help protect us against cyber threats. Following the Synnovis cyber-attack on the NHS and due to the increased risk to the NHS, the Trust has taken the decision to not release detailed information relating to its Cyber security.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust takes these risks very seriously. Since it holds large amounts of sensitive, personal and confidential information, maintaining the security of this information is extremely important. Disclosure of the information would assist a hacker in gaining valuable information as to the nature of the Trust's systems, defences and possible vulnerabilities.

There is a very strong public interest in preventing the Trust's information systems from being subject to cyber-attacks.