

Ref: FOI2021-020

12th January 2022

Dear |

Further to our email of 17th November 2021 regarding your request for the following information:

The date range for the requests is from 2018 to present day. The data shall include a breakdown by year and by individual departments (e.g. separate departments, agencies, or public bodies within the main government agency), if applicable.

1. How many malicious emails have been successfully blocked?
2. What percentage of malicious emails were opened by staff?
3. What percentage of malicious links in the emails were clicked on by staff?
4. How many ransomware attacks were blocked by the department?
5. How many ransomware attacks were successful?

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

The Act provides applicants with two rights under section 1. These are:

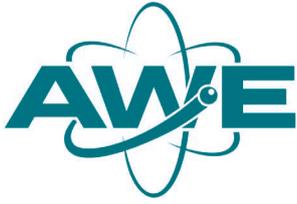
- s.1(1)(a) The right to be told (in writing) whether the authority holds the information that has been requested, and
- s.1(1)(b) The right to have that information communicated to them.

The duty under s.1(1)(a) is referred to as the duty to confirm or deny. When responding to a request for information, it may be necessary for the authority to Neither Confirm Nor Deny (NCND) that it holds the information.

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) neither confirms nor denies that it holds the information that you requested pursuant to the following sections:

- Section 24(2) - The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, exemption from section 1(1)(a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.
- Section 26(3) – Defence - The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in subsection (1).
- Section 31(3) - Law Enforcement: Prevention or Detection of Crime - The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that compliance with section 1(1)(a) would or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in subsection (1).

To give a statement of the reasons why neither confirming nor denying is appropriate in this case would itself indicate the success (or otherwise) of attacks by malicious parties. This information could be useful to



such parties in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of our security measures. Every internet connected site is subject to probes and attacks from a wide range of parties and we take a variety of approaches to detect and prevent such activity. It is not our policy to release any information, therefore under section 17(4) of the Act, no explanation can be given.

A public interest test has been completed in respect of each of the stated exemptions and has fallen in favour of neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.

This response should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested is or is not held by AWE.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance, remembering to quote the reference number above in any communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to information.requests@awe.co.uk or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team