



[REDACTED]

12 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00407

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 7 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request any records from the last 3 years of your IT policies with regards to IT and Cyber Security training. I'm looking for records that might indicate how often training is run according to policy, what kind of training took place (phishing awareness, password strength, social engineering awareness), who ran the training either a third party or in house staff organized, and any feedback or analysis on the effectiveness of the training that took place.

Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold the information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

We note your request was directed to the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), however, in April 2018 UKRI was formed, bringing together the seven disciplinary research councils, Research England and Innovate UK. More information about UKRI can be found [here](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/)¹.

This resulted in standardisation of both e-learning and underpinning supplier contracts for these services. As such, there is not a separate or dedicated IT and Cyber Security policy for STFC, therefore, our response is on behalf of the entirety of UKRI.

Mandatory e-learning Cyber Security training is undertaken by staff on initial employment and is then repeated annually. This training is provided by a third party, which for 2018 and 2019 was CybSafe and for 2020 and 2021 is KnowBe4.

Releasing the information requested on the type of training that takes place and any analysis of its effectiveness would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime as per Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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 release of the information, to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability, in disclosing information about government or public authority infrastructure and contracts

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/>

Public interest test in favour of withholding the information

- The release of this information would make UKRI more vulnerable to crime
- The crime in question would be a malicious attack on UKRI's computer infrastructure and/or systems
- The release of this information would be seen to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, by highlighting areas of potential weakness and vulnerability in staff awareness and understanding, therefore making UKRI's computer systems more vulnerable to hacking which in turn facilitates 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 the selected information under Section 31(1)(a).

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance


Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal 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: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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