

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

12 September 2017

Ref: FOI/August 2017/ Matteo Civillini

By email to matteo.civillini@gmail.com

The Burroughs
Hendon
London
NW4 4BT
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 8411 4061
e-mail:
j.gilchrist@mdx.ac.uk
www.mdx.ac.uk

Dear Mr Civillini

Your request for information received on 29 August 2017 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

1. The number of cyber security incidents that have affected your institution between January 2016 and the date for which the latest data is available. If possible, specify the type of cyber security incident (ransomware, data breach or others)
2. The total amount of money spent by your institution to deal with any cyber security incident between January 2016 and the date for which the latest data is available.

University Response

1. Please note that the University considers the information to be exempt from disclosure under s31(1)(a)(b) where the release of information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, I am required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Favouring disclosure

Transparency and accountability would be increased.

Favouring non-disclosure

The University's tactics in dealing with cyber-attacks would be compromised and the prevention and detection of crime would be hindered.

Balancing Test

Whilst disclosure of this information may improve accountability, it would also indicate the University tactics in dealing with cyber-attacks that may subsequently be compromised as a

result. As such, it is my decision that the public interest lies in the non-disclosure of the exempted information in this case.

2. Middlesex does not pay for recovery from ransomware attacks. Where cyber-attacks are perpetrated against the institution, these matters are addressed using existing pre-assigned staff resource (internal and managed service), we do not track or cost these activities separately.

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have such a complaint, you may contact Mrs Teresa Kelly, Clerk to the Board of Governors, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 6018, t.kelly@mdx.ac.uk within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer