

## **Response**

Thank you for your request under the freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding cyber-attacks on the Gambling Commission.

All breaches of and suspected weaknesses are reported and investigated and appropriate actions taken. With regards to any further information you have requested we are of the view that releasing the details of specific incidents could expose potential weaknesses in the Commissions cyber security systems leaving us vulnerable to malicious attack.

Furthermore as a licensing authority we are required to collect sensitive personal and commercial data from operators; revealing potential weakness' in our systems and the ability to protect that information may lead to operators not providing this information at the level of detail we require in order to carry out our likening objective effectively.

Disclosing this information would be of detriment to the Commission and its role as a regulatory and licensing authority therefore exempt from disclosure under S31 of the Freedom of Information Act. 2000. Further details of the application of this exemption can be found in the attached document.

### **Review of the decision**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to FOI Team, Gambling Commission, 4th floor, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Gambling Commission. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

## **Request**

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to cyber-attacks on your organisation.

To be clear, by "cyber-attack" I am referring to the unauthorised access or deliberate disruption of a computer system or a device owned and/or operated by your organisation. Types of cyber-attack could include, but are not limited to: ransomware, denial of service, phishing and spear phishing.

By data, I refer to any information held on your computer systems or devices

Please could you answer the following:-

- 1) Does your organisation keep an incident log of cyber attacks?
- 2) How many cyber attacks - attempted and successful - were recorded against your organisation in the last three financial years (ie 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17)?
- 3) Where cyber attacks were successful, what kind and amount of data, if any, was lost or stolen? Was it confidential?

For each case, please confirm:

- 4) The type of attack (eg ransomware, denial of service etc)
- 5) What demand, for example a Bitcoin payment, was made to resolve the attack? Did your organisation comply?
- 6) Whether the attack was reported to police or other responsible authority? To the best of your knowledge, was the attacker traced/convicted?