

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_150_22

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Cwm Taf Health Board. Please may you provide me with:

A list of devices and assets connected to your network that have internet capabilities, AND an outline of the cybersecurity risk profile associated with Cwm Taf Health Board.

Our response:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) has deemed that the information requested within this request is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

The UHB recognises its duty to protect the public and individuals, and we will not jeopardise this duty by providing this information, in our opinion, this would weaken our ability to protect our patients, staff and other service users. We have also considered the harm which will or will be likely to arise from the release of this information along with information already in the public domain.

Section 31(1)(a) of the Act provides that information which is not exempt by virtue of Section 30 (criminal investigations and proceedings) is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. In guidance, the Information Commissioner's Office has advised that Section 31 amongst other things, prevents information being disclosed that would increase the risk of the law being broken. In addition, it can be claimed by any public authority.

The UHB is relying upon this exemption as it considers that releasing a list of devices and assets connected to our network that have internet capabilities, and an outline of the cybersecurity risk profile, would in the present climate, make it more vulnerable to crime.

Section 31 – Law Enforcement of the Act states that:

31(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice - (a) the prevention or detection of crime

The exemption is subject to the public interest test:

Public Interest - in favour to release:

The UHB has a duty to maintain openness and transparency in all its activities.

Public Interest – in favour of non-disclosure:

By releasing the requested information, the UHB would be vulnerable to a malicious attack on the UHB computer systems. If disclosed this could potentially compromise the security of both patient and staff information and cause major disruption to HBs information systems, which would affect patient care and safety.

Therefore, the UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs any arguments for disclosure, therefore protecting the UHB from potential criminal activity.