



Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-G-025

☎ 01639 648363  
✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[Redacted]

Corporate Services  
Headquarters  
1 Talbot Gateway  
Baglan  
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

[Redacted]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Your request sought information relating to Microsoft windows systems.

- 1. How many instances of the Microsoft Windows 7 Operating System are currently in operation across your entire network? How many devices such as kiosks, lap tops etc are still running Windows 7?**
- 2. How many instances of the Microsoft Windows XP Operating System are currently in operation across your entire network ? How many devices such as kiosks, lap tops etc are still running Windows XP?**

The Health Board neither confirms nor denies that it holds information falling within the description specified in your request.

Section 31(3) of the Freedom of Information Act provides that a public authority is not obliged to confirm or deny holding information described in a request if to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in section 31(1).

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does.
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime.



The crime in question here would be a malicious attack on the health boards computer systems.

The exemption is subject to the public interest test. The Health Board acknowledges that it is in the public's interest to know that a public authority has measures in place to protect information in its possession.

However confirming or denying whether any information is held would reveal details that could potentially place our security measures at risk being in the public domain and could make this information accessible to criminals and cyber terrorists and subsequently compromise public and individual safety. The Health Board's protective security measures that exist are there to protect our systems which are used to directly assist with the provision of patient care. It has been established that any groups who may be planning cyber-attacks are known to conduct extensive research into the opposition they might face, and confirming or denying whether any information is held about our processes and the security of our systems, no matter how innocuous such requests may appear, may enhance the capability of cyber terrorists and hackers to carry out such attacks.

Confirming or denying whether any information is held could enable hackers and cyber criminals to gain knowledge about the Health Boards capabilities and thus place our IT security measures at potential risk and this could enable them to plan attacks where they perceive a lower level of security resource exists. This exposes our IT systems to greater risk and therefore it also follows that risk to our systems will also constitute a risk to both public and staff as our systems are used to provide patient care.

### **3. Who is the officer responsible for maintaining and delivering legacy applications to all your users?**

Mr Matt John, Director of Digital.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk).

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk).

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger  
**Director of Corporate Governance**

