

Ref. No: FOI1112  
Date: 01/08/2024  
Subject: IT FOI

## REQUEST

I would request you to respond to questions included in the attachment.

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

Please see attached. And note Q1 Security Infrastructure and Q4 Cyber Security Service and Software. is exempted under the FOI act.

Section 31(1)(a) of the Act states:

31. Law enforcement.

(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,

Guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office[i] states:

*Section 31(1)(a) will cover all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime...The exemption also covers information held by public authorities without any specific law enforcement responsibilities...It could also be used to withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime for example, by disclosing its own security procedures.*

Information disclosed under Freedom of Information becomes publicly available. This means that the impact of disclosure must be considered from the general release of information and not limited to disclosure to one individual (the requestor).

The Trust determines that to disclose information regarding the Trust's cyber security infrastructure, services and software could leave us susceptible to any vulnerabilities found within any of the products that we use within our infrastructure.