Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/418)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 20 October 2020, reference K/20/418.

Your request read:

- "How many cloud data breaches have occurred within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?
- How many cyberattacks have occurred within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?
- How many ransomware attacks have occurred within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?
- How many data loss incidents have occurred as a result of lost or stolen devices storing your organisation's data (such as USB flash drives, Hard Drives, Solid State Drives, mobile phones or laptops) within your organisation in 2019 and 2020?

    Please split any data supplied separately for 2019 and 2020."

The University of Leeds holds this information.

We have been subject to attempted cyber-attacks in the previous two years. Where required, we report breaches to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

However, we consider that further details are exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 31(1)(a) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if its release would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

To reveal the information regarding the number and nature of cyber-attacks would provide would-be or attempted attackers with information regarding our cyber-defence provision. It would indicate whether attempts have been detected and/or successful. This information could be used by motivated individuals in order to target the University, or to adapt behaviour in order to avoid detection.

Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exemption. This means that the University of Leeds is required to consider whether the public interest in the information outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

There is clearly a very strong public interest in protecting public authorities from crime. To release information which increases the University's vulnerability to cyber-crime would jeopardise our ability to provide services to our students (current, former and potential), and would put at risk personal, financial and commercial sensitive information. We therefore consider that there is a very strong public interest in maintaining the exemption. Conversely, we do not consider there to be any particular public interest in the disclosure of this information. While it is important for students and the public to understand that the University takes the threat of cyber-crime seriously, and are taking appropriate measures to tackle it, we do not consider that this interest would be furthered by the release of this information.

We therefore consider that the public interest is firmly in favour of withholding the information in this case.

However, in the hope that it is helpful, we can provide information showing the number of malicious emails which have been blocked by our IT security systems since January 2020. This information is set out in the table below.

	Quarantined - All	Quarantined Malware	Quarantined Phishing	Quarantined Ransomware
January 2020	24850	939	11394	139
February 2020	31635	582	9318	25
March 2020	28322	371	16332	26
April 2020	24567	532	19863	0
May 2020	28079	819	18790	3
June 2020	154694	618	149367	3
July 2020	48509	958	24108	17
August 2020	36428	288	5932	32
September 2020	44304	65	21535	5

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
            Deputy Secretary
            The University of Leeds
            Leeds
            LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University's response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

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

Kind regards

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds