Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/503)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 2 December 2020, reference K/20/503.

Your request read:

1. How many University of Leeds data subjects were involved in the Blackbaud data breach?

2. What types of personal data were, or may have been from stolen from University of Leeds data subjects?

3. Has University of Leeds provided any free financial accounts monitoring for University of Leeds data subjects affected by the Blackbaud data breach?

4. Which Blackbaud software, such as Blackbaud Raiser's Edge or Raiser's Edge NXT - Blackbaud Merchant Services - Blackbaud NetCommunity - Blackbaud DonorCentral - Blackbaud Financial Edge NXT and / or others, were involved in the data breach.

The University of Leeds holds information relevant to your request. However, we are withholding this information under the following sections of the FOI Act.

**Section 31(1)(a) – prevention and detection of crime**

To release details of the nature and volume of information which we know to have been obtained, as requested at parts one and two of your request, would reveal to those responsible how much we currently know about the attack. This information could be used by the responsible party or parties to adapt future attacks, prioritising methods and/or elements which do not appear to have been detected while discontinuing efforts which are readily noticed. This would make us more vulnerable to future attacks, which jeopardises our ability to provide services to students, alumni and staff. The information is therefore exempt under section 31(1)(a).

**Section 31(1)(b) – identification and apprehension of offenders**

To release records which demonstrate how much we know about the attack would provide the individuals responsible with information which could be used to avoid identification and apprehension. By revealing how much we know, offenders may be able to establish how close the investigation came to identifying them and can therefore take steps to thwart those (and future) efforts. This would put both the University of Leeds and other organisations at risk of future attacks by the same perpetrators. The information is therefore exempt under section 31(1)(b).
Section 31(1)(c) – administration of justice
We continue to work with users of the system and individuals who may have had data compromised. To release details of the nature of the attack in response to an FOI request, before we have been able to liaise directly with all directly affected individuals would be inappropriate and would undermine our efforts. To do so would jeopardise the trust between the university and the individuals (trust which is already understandably threatened as a result of the attack itself) which would be likely to lead to reduced confidence in the University going forward. The information is therefore exempt under section 31(1)(c).

Public interest consideration
We appreciate that there is a strong public interest in understanding how organisations such as the University of Leeds responds to cyber-attacks. We are also particularly aware of the personal interest that individuals for whom the University holds personal data will have in this incident and our response to it. For broad information in relation to the data which was obtained please refer to the statement on our Alumni website. However, we consider that there is a very strong public interest in protecting investigation processes and in ensuring we do not increase our own vulnerability to attacks in future. We therefore conclude that the overwhelming public interest in this case is in favour withholding the requested information.

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.
Sincerely
Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer
University of Leeds