



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: MALICIOUS EMAIL VOLUME**

Thank you for your email to the Trade Remedies Authority in which you requested the following information:

“The date range for the requests is from 2018 to present day. The data shall include a breakdown by year and by individual departments (e.g. separate departments, agencies, or public bodies within the main government agency), if applicable.

1. How many malicious emails have been successfully blocked?
2. What percentage of malicious emails were opened by staff?
3. What percentage of malicious links in the emails were clicked on by staff?
4. How many ransomware attacks were blocked by the department?
5. How many ransomware attacks were successful?”

For your information we have taken the date range as being from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 which is the date the Trade Remedies Authority was established.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

### **Response**

We have reviewed your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). The requested information is held by the TRA and is being withheld under section 31(1)(a) of Act, the Prevention or Detection of Crime. Information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection crime.

This information has been withheld because its release could make the TRA more vulnerable to crime. The disclosure of this information could reveal potential vulnerabilities in our IT systems and could put the organisation at risk of a cyber security breach.

### **Public Interest Test**

Section 31 is a qualified exemption and therefore we are required to consider the public interest test.

### Public interest considerations in favour of disclosing the information

There is a public interest in openness and transparency in public sector bodies which can help to maintain public trust. We are mindful that information relating to the security of TRA's systems are matters of public interest and that there are legitimate reasons for wanting to know that such security measures are adequate in protecting the information it holds.

### Public interest considerations in favour of withholding the information

Whilst the TRA recognises the public interest in transparency we are also mindful that there is a greater public interest in allowing organisations to operate without the increased threat of an attack occurring because of information being released into the public domain. Any attack on our IT network would affect the ability of the TRA to maintain its services and could lead to data breaches.

### **Balance of Public Interest Test**

The TRA accepts that there is a very real interest in the public knowing that it has adequate levels of protection in place for its IT systems and to ensure that we limit any potential vulnerabilities.

However, the TRA believes that ensuring the safety of its systems is paramount and considers that disclosing the requested information could expose the organisation to the risk of crime which could ultimately undermine its ability to deliver services.

The TRA therefore believes that the greater public interest in withholding the information outweighs the arguments for disclosure.

### **Appeals procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Knowledge and Information Management Team:

Knowledge and Information Management  
Trade Remedies Authority  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Northgate House  
21-23 Valpy Street  
Reading  
London  
RG1 1AF

Email: [InformationRights@traderemedies.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRights@traderemedies.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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. The Information



Trade Remedies  
Authority

Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights

Trade Remedies Authority

E: [InformationRights@trade.remedies.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRights@trade.remedies.gov.uk)