



University of East Anglia

Information Services Directorate

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[Redacted]

01 November 2016

Dear [Redacted]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_16-202)**

We have now considered your request of 12 October 2016 for information relating to cyber security infrastructure and contracts at UEA.

Our response is on page 3 of this letter, together with a copy of your request and within the attached document entitled FOI\_16-202 Appendix A.

On this occasion it is not possible to provide all the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm that the University does not hold any contract information relating to intrusion detection, web applications firewall or threat monitoring systems because we do not have a contract per se for the provision of these systems. This also applies to the identity of the contract officer for the relevant systems.

We also do not hold the annual spend for our anti-virus software application as it is supplied as part of the licensing for another product and is not priced separately.

Additionally, the Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemption to part of your request.

Exemption	Reason
s.31(1)(a), Law enforcement	Some of the requested information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime

As with other large organisations, universities are reliant on the smooth running of their IT networks. Maintaining the security of these networks is a significant challenge for all universities, who are increasingly subject to both general cyber security threats and also targeted attempts to obtain information from students and staff.

Release of any information under the Act represents a disclosure to the world at large. We are aware of publicly available websites which list known vulnerabilities of specific vendors, including the vendors of our networks and security systems. If we were to disclose the supplier and brand of our security software and systems, it would enable a motivated individual or group to identify both what security is in place and potentially any known vulnerabilities for that particular software or system. This would simplify and mask any chosen method of attack, would enhance intelligence

on how to circumvent UEA security, and would reduce any pre-warning of impending attack. The result would be the exposure of the University's IT systems to various types of unlawful attack and consequently prejudicing the prevention of criminal activity.

Application of the s.31(1) exemption requires us to consider the public interest in withholding or disclosing this information. We acknowledge there is a public interest in increasing transparency in how the University manages its business, and this may include general information about how we manage the IT network underpinning much of the work of the organisation.

However there is a very strong public interest in preventing criminal activity that could damage the running of the University and the security of information held by and about individual staff and students. On balance we believe this interest outweighs any lawful public interest in the identity of the requested vendors, and software and hardware brands.

We hope this response will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

[https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us), or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer  
Information Policy and Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia

## Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI\_16-202)

*I am currently embarking on a research project around Cyber Security and was hoping you could provide me with some contract information relating to following information:*

- 1. Standard Firewall (Network) - Firewall service protects your corporate Network from unauthorised access and other Internet security threats*
- 2. Intrusion Detection - network intrusion detections systems (IDS) and network intrusion prevention systems (IPS) services that detect Web application attacks and include anomaly-awareness in addition to handling older threats that haven't disappeared.*
- 3. Web Applications Firewall - A Web application firewall (WAF) is a firewall that monitors, filters or blocks the HTTP traffic to and from a Web application.*
- 4. Threat Monitoring - organizations and security analysts to identify and protect against security threats.*
- 5. Anti-virus Software Application - Anti-virus software is a program or set of programs that are designed to prevent, search for, detect, and remove software viruses, and other malicious software like worms, trojans, adware, and more.*
- 6. Encryption Facilities - is a host based software solution designed to encrypt sensitive data before transferring it to tape for archival purposes or business partner exchange.*

*For each of the different types of cyber security services can you please provide me with:*

- 1. Who is the existing supplier for this contract?*
- 2. What does the organisation spend for each of contract?*
- 3. What is the description of the services provided for each contract?*
- 4. What is the expiry date of each contract?*
- 5. What is the start date of each contract?*
- 6. What is the contract duration of contract?*
- 7. What is the hardware brand? If available.*
- 8. What is the software brand? If available?*
- 9. The responsible contract officer? Full name, job title, contact number and direct email address.*

Our response is contained within the attached document entitled FOI\_16-202 Appendix A.

***[Information exempted pursuant to s.31(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]***

Some information is exempted for the reasons noted in the letter above.