



Reference: FOI3632

Request:

1. Does the Council have a plan for coping with the consequences of a major cyber attack?

Please note that I am not asking for details of how you will get IT systems up and running again after cleansing them of viruses and malware etc., I am talking about the aftermath of a truly apocalyptic attack on major infrastructure such as the electricity distribution system, water distribution, the NHS, mobile phone networks and air traffic control systems etc.

2. To put the question more brutally does the Council have a plan to feed people if there is no electricity, no water and no means of communication?

3. If you do not have such a plan please say so.

4. If you do not have such a plan do you intend to create one?

5. If you do not intend to create one please say why not?

6. If you do have a plan is it accessible to the public?

7. If it is not accessible to the public, why not?

During the Cold War there were plans on how to live in a post-nuclear bomb world so I would hope that there are similar plans for a post cyber attack world. It was also the case that bunkers had been prepared for certain key officials to shelter in.

8. Have any bunkers been prepared for the aftermath and have any key Council officials been designated as meriting a place in the bunker? If so, which ones?

I would be grateful if you responded to this request in a spirit of openness and transparency and not limit your response to what is technically allowed under the FOIA. The request has not been sent for the purpose of exposing deficiencies in the Council's emergency response capabilities but out of a genuine desire to learn what the position is, and maybe even prompt the Council to examine their readiness and prepare the right response to such a disaster.

Response

****This request for information is refused under Section 24(1), which provides that information is exempt if exemption from section 1(1) (b) is required for the purposes of safeguarding national security. National security includes more than the security of the UK, its military defence and its systems of government, it also involves co-operation with**

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other states in combating international terrorism and guarding against actions targeted at other states which may impact on the UK and its people.**

This is also refused under Section 38 providing an exemption from disclosing information if it would endanger any individual (including the applicant, the supplier of the information or anyone else). Information is exempt from disclosure under this Act if it would, or would be likely to— (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

Section 41, sets out an exemption from the right to know where the information was provided to the public authority in confidence. Information provided to this authority by the supplying public authorities. Aspects of emergency / disaster planning documentation when engaged will also be subject to further exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.