**FOI 10 24: Additional explanatory information**

Your request concerns the technologies used at WICS. These technologies are essential and critical to the carrying out of WICS core public functions. We consider that there is a very real risk associated with disclosing this information. If made publicly available, individuals may attempt to use this information to cause harm to WICS IT and information assets. The impact of such an attack on could be significant.

This information could reveal details of the IT infrastructure currently in place at WICS, which could, in turn, assist in identifying any known vulnerabilities that exist. This could help a determined and knowledgeable individual formulate how best to target and attack the infrastructure. This gives rise to an increased risk to the confidentiality, integrity and availability of WICS IT services and information assets. This risk must be viewed against the backdrop of the recent increase in sophisticated, targeted cyber-attacks against Scottish public sector bodies.

If successful, a cyber-attack has the potential to compromise WICS IT infrastructure, resulting in downtime and the potential non-availability of critical systems and / or the potential diversion of human resources and finances towards responding to the cyber-attack and addressing its fallout. This would significantly impact WICS operational efficacy, its reputation and the ability to carry out its statutory activities, and thereby substantially prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.

The exemption contained in Section 30(c) of FOISA is a non-absolute exemption. This involves WICS considering the public interest test in Section 2(1)(b) of FOISA and assessing whether in all the circumstances, the public interest is better served by disclosing the information or by maintaining the exemption and withholding the information from disclosure.

We consider that there is a public interest in WICS being transparent and accountable for the management of its finances and decisions made with regard to the technologies that it has invested in to assist it in carrying out its statutory functions. Disclosure of the requested information would inform the public in this regard.

However, at the same time, it would not be in the public interest for information to be disclosed into the public domain, resulting in there being a significant probability of an increased risk of WICS being exposed to a cyber-attack, with the aforementioned consequences, thereby leaving WICS unable to properly fulfil its statutory functions. Any successful cyber-attack would also lead to a significant increase in costs. This is not in the public interest.

We consider that it is not in the public interest for information to be disclosed and are therefore able to rely on the exemption contained in Section 30(c) of FOISA.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out a review by contacting us.  Your request for review should explain why you are dissatisfied and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this response.  The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original process and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt.  If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) and thereafter to the Court of Session on a point of law only.  The SIC can be contacted using the details below:

Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road

St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Web: [www.foi.scot](http://www.foi.scot)

Kind regards,

FOI Officer