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4th June 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2024/25-036

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office for the following information:

- I work as [REDACTED] at a company called the [REDACTED] which is based in [REDACTED]. Our current work consists of working with some NHS Trusts to help them understand the threats to their hospitals and looking at ways to mitigate these threats and reduce any risks.

One area that we are looking at is Operational Technology (OT) devices. A category of hardware and software that controls the performance of physical devices, often industrial equipment acting as an interface between the two.

One category of OT devices that we are investigating, because it is often overlooked are vending machines, which are often connected to corporate networks. There are a number of vending machines being used at different sites.

In order to understand any risks, we need to understand all the assets involved.

What we would like to know is:

How many vending machines are in use across the whole NHS (this applies to all types of food and drink vending machines)?

A breakdown of:

How many of these vending machines are connected to the network/internet?

How many vending machines are not connected to any type of network (ie old fashioned vending machines)?

How many vending machines are assigned to specific healthcare Trusts?

How many vending machines are at individual hospitals across the country?

Which vending machine suppliers cover which Healthcare Trusts?

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and can confirm SCCL does not hold this information.

We hope that this response addresses your request. However, if you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the postal or e-mail addresses above, quoting the reference number above. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Supply Chain Coordination Limited

As part of any internal review the handling of your information request will be reassessed by a member of SCCL staff who was not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely

FOI Team

Supply Chain Coordination Limited
Management Function of NHS Supply Chain