

To: Lee Murray

Freedom of Information  
Northern House  
9 Rougier Street  
York  
YO1 6HZ  
FOI@northernrailway.co.uk

16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Lee

## Freedom of Information Request ref FOI125

We write in connection with your request for information which was received by Northern Trains on 19/05/21:

*"I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the following questions;*

- 1. How many instances of the Microsoft Windows 7 Operating System are currently in operation across your entire network? How many devices such as kiosks, lap tops etc are still running Windows 7?*
- 2. How many instances of the Microsoft Windows XP Operating System are currently in operation across your entire network? How many devices such as kiosks, lap tops etc are still running Windows XP?*
- 3. Who is the officer responsible for maintaining and delivering legacy applications to all your users?"*

With regards to questions 1 and 2, under section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act we can confirm that we hold this information. However, we are withholding this information under section 31(1)(a) – the prevention or detection of crime.

This exemption applies to information which, if disclosed, has the potential to increase the risk of crime against Northern, such as information relating to potential vulnerabilities within our IT network. We consider that the disclosure of potential vulnerabilities within our IT network could lead to attempts to obtain unauthorised access to our systems and the exploitation of any vulnerabilities, compromising our network. This could result in (for example) disruption to business-critical systems and essential services, such as the cancellation or disruption of Northern's rail services.

Section 31(1) (a) is a qualified exemption and we are therefore required to apply the public interest test. We acknowledge that disclosure of the requested information would provide transparency about cyber security within Northern. However, we consider that the requirement to protect our IT network and essential services to our customers outweighs any public interest in the disclosure of this information.

[www.northernrailway.co.uk](http://www.northernrailway.co.uk)

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

ALBANY HOUSE, FLOOR 8, 94-98 PETTY FRANCE, LONDON, ENGLAND SW1H 9EA

Company No. 03076444

Under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act we are withholding the name(s) of the employees you have requested as we consider this to be personal data, the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Under Section 40(2) of the FOIA this is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to apply a public interest test.

Yours faithfully

**Steven Brennan, Franchise Compliance Manager**

### **Appeal Rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to request a review of our decision you may contact us at [FOI@northernrail.co.uk](mailto:FOI@northernrail.co.uk)

You should specify why you do not agree with our response and what factors you would like to be considered as part of the review. This should include any public interest arguments for disclosure.

Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter.

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 Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

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