

FOI DOF/2023-0044

**Request**

Please find below my FOI request regarding malicious emails sent to the department.

The date range for the request is for 2022. The data shall include a breakdown by individual departments (e.g. separate departments, agencies, or public bodies within the main government agency), if applicable. Where data isn't available for the entire year, please provide the data and timescale it relates to (e.g. X emails over the last 90 days).

1. How many malicious emails have been successfully blocked/detected?
2. If possible, please provide a breakdown of figures by malicious email type, e.g. spam, malware, phishing, and ransomware.
3. What percentage of malicious emails were opened by staff?
4. What percentage of malicious links in the emails were clicked on by staff?
5. How many email accounts/employees are there within your department?

**Response**

I can confirm that Digital Shared Services (DSS) in the Department of Finance holds information on behalf of Northern Ireland government departments in relation to your request.

DSS provides IT infrastructure services to all Northern Ireland government departments, the Northern Ireland Office and some wider public sector organisations.

1. 1,046,009,957

Please note that this information cannot be broken down by Department, agency or organisation etc.

2. Please see table below for breakdown by category:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Stopped by Reputation Filtering         | 1,039,720,351 |
| Stopped by Domain Reputation Filtering  | 90,235        |
| Stopped as Invalid Recipients           | 1,055,934     |
| Spam Detected                           | 1,057,486     |
| Virus Detected                          | 19,716        |
| Detected by Advanced Malware Protection | 1,702         |
| Messages with Malicious URLs            | 5,441         |
| Stopped by Content Filter               | 520,689       |
| Stopped by DMARC                        | 3,538,403     |
|   |               |
| Total Threat Messages                   | 1,046,009,957 |

3. Information not held by Department of Finance.

4. Information not held by Department of Finance.

5. There are approximately 25,000 active users and approximately 39,300 mailboxes in use across the service.