

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Date received	17/03/2022	Subject	Data protection breaches		
Passed to	Information Governance	Date passed	18/03/2022	Respond by	07/04/2022
Category	Press	Foi number	2022-107		

Question/s to be answered

1. Can you tell me how many data protection breaches have been logged by NHS Shetland from October 2017 until March 2022?

We have interpreted your question to refer to personal data breaches as defined by Article 4(12) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK-GDPR): “a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed”.

Between 1 October 2017 and 17 March 2022 (the date of the request) NHS Shetland logged a total of 312 data breaches that involved personal data for which NHS Shetland was the sole or joint data controller (as defined in Article 4(7) of the UK-GDPR). A further 27 breaches were logged by NHS Shetland that involved personal data for which NHS Shetland was **not** the data controller.

2. Can you also break down the breaches to explain what type of breaches these were?

There are multiple way of categorising the type of data breach. We have provided the following breakdowns based on two established sets of categories:

- The [CIA triad \(Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability\)](#)

	Confidentiality	Integrity	Availability
Count of incidents	161	137	58

Please note that single incidents can be of more than one type

- The incident types used by the [Information Commissioner’s Office \(ICO\) in their reports](#)

Incident type	Count
Alteration of / error in personal data	112
Data emailed/texted to the wrong recipient	47
Data posted/faxed/handed to incorrect recipient	56
Failure to redact	3
Failure to use bcc	1
Hardware/software misconfiguration	21
Loss/theft of device containing personal data	1
Loss/theft of paperwork/data or paperwork/data left in unsecure location	26

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Incident type	Count
Other non-cyber incident	26
Unauthorised access	15
Unauthorised access (cyber)	1
Verbal disclosure of personal data	3

Please note that the figures above only include incidents involving personal data for which NHS Shetland was the sole or joint data controller.