Report to the Chair and Members of the Audit Committee
28 September 2023

Executive Officer: Deputy Chief Constable

Status: For information

Information Security Update

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit Committee with continued assurances that Cleveland Police has implemented the necessary technical, physical, personnel and procedural security controls to protect its information and satisfy national Information Assurance (IA) requirements that are pertinent to government and policing.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of the report and take assurance that the appropriate information security controls are in place.

3. Information Assurance Governance

3.1 The force continues with a governance framework including specialist IA roles: Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), Information Asset Owners (IAOs), Information Security Manager (ISM), and Data Protection Officer (DPO, also the head of the Information Management Unit). An Information Governance Manager has been recruited recently.

The SIRO is currently DCC Victoria Fuller. The strategic risks remain

i. loss/disclosure of paper documents;
ii. inappropriate disclosure electronically (e.g., email, social media);
iii. availability of critical computer systems;
iv. loss/disclosure of removable media; and
v. physical security of sites.

3.3 The baseline e-learning training for all officers and staff is "Managing Information" (operation and non-operational) and "Government security classification", to be repeated every two years. PowerBI dashboards enable supervisors and IMU to monitor compliance of e-learning packages. All IAOs are still expected to complete the "Protecting Information" level 2 and the "Data Protection Foundation Level" courses.

3.4 The Information Assurance Board continues to meet, most recently on 25 July 2023.

3.5 Demand on the information security team remains high. Projects such as M365, NLEDS and the need to exploit the capabilities of Microsoft Sentinel (a means of collating log data and identifying potential security incidents) remain challenging.

3.6 Security incidents continue to be recorded, assessed and reviewed by the ISM. Whether personal information is involved, the DPO makes an assessment in relation to notifying the Information Commissioner's Office. Critical incidents are handled by "gold" groups.

4. Compliance

4.1 The Force is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and ensures compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act (2018) through the duties and responsibilities of the Data Protection Officer.

4.2 Remediation from the 2022 IT Security Health Check (ITSHC aka ITHC) is improved although some legacy issues, complicated by external dependencies, remain outstanding.

4.3 National assurance of policing has moved from the National Police Information Risk Management Team (NPIRMT) to Police Digital Services. As part of this, we have fully engaged with the new Security Assessment for Policing (SyAP) process (a replacement for the previous governance and information risk return).

4.4 PDS issued a first annual report relating from SyAP. This highlights the high risk (to all policing, as well as Cleveland) of ransomware. A formal response to the SyAP report is being prepared.

4.5 We retain accreditation from PDS for Airwave connectivity.

5. Implications

5.1 Finance
There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

5.2 Diversity and Equal Opportunities
There are no diversity or equal opportunity implications arising from the content of this report.

5.3 Human Rights Act
There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from the content of this report.

5.4 Sustainability
There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

5.5 Risk
The risk of ransomware attack is incorporated in the existing "availability of critical computer systems" strategic risk. Increased activity by threat actors along with the increased use of cloud services such as M365 means this requires particular attention.

Information Security Manager
6 September 2023