

Number of electronic devices lost or stolen, reports to the ICO and data breaches in the past year

Request:

I would like to request responses to the following questions please:

1. How many laptop, mobile, tablet or USB devices have been lost or stolen from your organisation in the past year? Please specify numbers of each device type.
2. Have you had to disclose or inform the ICO of a data breach as a result of any of these devices being lost or stolen in the past year?
3. How many data breaches have you experienced within your organisation (department) within the past year?

Response:

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOIA”) provides a right of access, subject to specified exemptions, to recorded information held by a public authority. In the case of the House of Lords, the rights of access apply to recorded information held by the House of Lords Administration.

Please note we have taken “the past year” to mean the last 12 months up to the date of receipt of your request, i.e. the period from 3 August 2019 to 3 August 2020.

1. How many laptop, mobile, tablet or USB devices have been lost or stolen from your organisation in the past year? Please specify numbers of each device type.

The House Administration holds information on the number of devices that have been reported as stolen or missing to the Parliamentary Digital Service (PDS). Six items have been reported as stolen or missing in the past year. Please see the table below for the breakdown by type of device.

Device Type	Number Lost/Stolen
Laptop	2
Phone	2
Tablet	2

The above figures relate to both staff of the House Administration and to individual members of the House.

Please note it is the responsibility of the individual to report items lost or stolen, and it is therefore not possible to record how reliably this is done, especially for smaller or less valuable items. You may also wish to note that lost or stolen IT equipment is reported separately to both the Metropolitan Police and the Parliamentary Digital Service. Since the loss or theft of equipment may be reported to both entities there may be some duplication between the information that we hold and that published by the police.

2. Have you had to disclose or inform the ICO of a data breach as a result of any of these devices being lost or stolen in the past year?

No, the House Administration has not had to inform the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) of a potential data breach as a result of any devices being lost or stolen in the past year.

Please note that the House Administration's responsibility in this respect is limited to data for which the Corporate Officer for the House of Lords is the controller. In this context, the Corporate Officer is the controller for devices assigned to House Administration staff, but not for devices assigned to members of the House of Lords. Four of the six devices were assigned to members of the House of Lords, and the other two to staff of the House Administration.

3. How many data breaches have you experienced within your organisation (department) within the past year?

In the past year, the House Administration has a record of three incidents involving personal data; two near misses, which did not result in any loss of data, and one very limited loss of data, when telephone numbers of four members of the House of Lords were briefly revealed to a limited audience during a live broadcast of House proceedings. None of these incidents resulted from lost or stolen devices. None were required to be formally reported to the ICO, although in the case of the data loss we notified the ICO of the incident.