

ESSENTIAL CYBER DEFENCES FOR CHARITIES

Confidentiality of information in charities has always been of paramount importance. A breach affecting records of its data which could involve donors, children, ethnic and religious categories is typically very serious and would invite increased regulatory and public scrutiny with potential severe financial penalties.

The security threat from the simple use of e-mail and the web is very real, with phishing and ransomware attacks commonplace in today's internet-connected world. Successful cyberattacks range from the theft of sensitive information to long-term disruption to the operation of IT systems.

Maintaining a minimum level of cyber compliance across your charity's IT infrastructure is therefore absolutely key to not falling victim to a cyberattack. As technology constantly evolves becoming more ingrained into daily life, it is often difficult to know what this minimum level looks like in practice. The technical capabilities to strengthen cyber security defences is not always internally available within the charity.

For trustees, it can be challenging to determine whether the charity's infrastructure is adequately protected against the possible threat of a cyber-attack. This issue facing the sector across the country led to the UK Government introducing the Cyber Essentials scheme. The scheme is designed to protect charities against 80% of the most common cyberattacks which can impact charities of all sizes,

The five controls within the Cyber Essentials scheme are designed to protect your charity against these types of cyber-attacks and guard your internet connection, devices, data and services.

Basic Level Cyber Essentials certification is self-assessment and provides a basic level of assurance that the controls have been implemented correctly by the organisation.

Cyber Essentials Plus covers the same requirements but also includes an on-site audit and therefore provides the independent assurance of the effectiveness of these controls.

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EXPERIENCE OF BREACHES OR ATTACKS



of charities identified cyber security breaches or attacks in the last 12 months

Among the 22% identifying breaches or attacks:

£9,470

is the average annual cost for charities that lost data or assets after breaches





needed new measures to prevent future attacks



took up staff time dealing with breaches or attacks

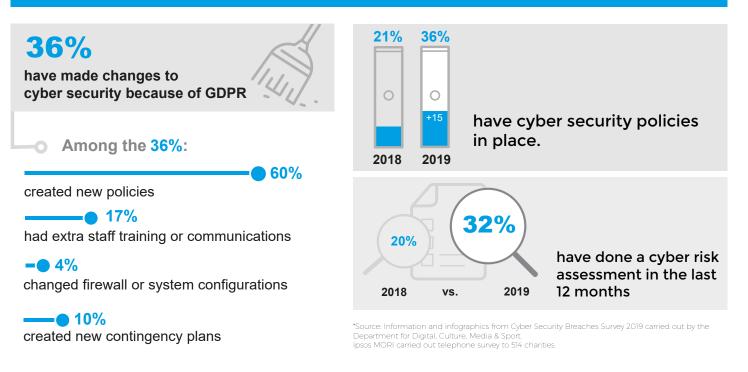


had staff stopped from carrying out daily work

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39%		

identified at least one breach or attack a month

GDPR AND CYBER SECURITY



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