

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

COSTS OF RESPONDING TO A SERIOUS & SIGNIFICANT CYBER-ATTACK BY INTERNATIONAL SERIOUS & ORGANISED CRIMINALS

MARCH 2022

TOTAL SUMMARY

COST TYPE	SUMMARY	£'000
Cyber-Attack Response	Supporting Our Services	353
Cyber-Attack Response	Supporting Our People	244
Cyber-Attack Response	Independent Audits & Sharing Our Learnings Widely	328
Cyber-Attack Response	Systems Security	495
Cyber-Attack Response	Systems Recovery & Rebuild	1,175
Cyber-Attack Response	Other	1,478
Sub-Total:		4,073

COST TYPE	SUMMARY	£'000
Costs Brought Forward From Future Years		1,130
Sub-Total:		1,130

NOTES

- On 24 December 2020, SEPA was the victim of serious and significant cyber-attack orchestrated by international serious and organised criminals. Whilst our story is not unique, we were clear that we would not use public funds to meet a ransom request and that we would share our learnings widely.
- Supported by the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, the National Cyber Response Centre and Scottish Business Resilience Centre, SEPA commissioned independent reviews into our readiness, resilience, response and recovery, which we published in October last year.
- Whilst both the reviews and Audit Scotland found that SEPA's cyber maturity assessment was high and that sophisticated defence and detection mechanisms were implemented and operating correctly prior to the incident, they identified a series of recommendations for the public sector, and (in the case of the independent audits) 44 learnings for SEPA. All the learnings were accepted.
- SEPA is working to a clear Corporate Plan and Annual Operating Plan, with a refreshed Annual Operating Plan due for publication in May 2022.
- The summary above is of direct costs in responding and recovering from serious and significant cyber-attack by international serious and organised criminals on Christmas Eve, 2020.
- The values provided are derived from invoice, purchase order and payroll information.