Cyber Readiness

Pinsent Masons

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Cyber security is a pressing management issue as companies seek to protect their intellectual property, business information and customer data from online theft and exploitation.

- Just 33% of respondents in a Pinsent Masons survey said their businesses are well equipped to deal with cyber risk.

- Around 81% of large organisations and 60% of small businesses found their digital defences had been breached in the past year, according to UK government data released in 2014.

- 60% of all businesses in the FTSE100 refer to 'Cyber' in their annual reports. When looking at just Financial Services, the figure jumps to 72%.

- 87% of companies in the FTSE100 that refer to 'cyber' in their annual reports talk about it in the context of protecting customer information.
Cyber Security: Act Now

Your Board needs a clear understanding of how to handle cyber incidents in a way that does not increase the organisation’s liability, maintains reputation and mitigates risk.

GCs are at the heart of helping their organisations manage risk. Many tell us that they face ever-increasing demands on their resources in doing so. While they are usually well placed to bring people together to protect their organisation, protecting your customers in the event of a cyber incident, mitigating legal liabilities, containing the resulting damage and preserving good reputation are cross-functional activities, typically involving a variety of departments and roles around the organisation. Therefore it is important that organisations have in place not only good procedures, but also cross-disciplinary teams who are used to communicating with one another in the event of a crisis.

We have a proven track record in assisting firms respond to such incidents, and are well versed in co-ordinating response activities across different parties such as forensic experts, your insurers (if there is relevant insurance cover), PR advisers, and credit monitoring services. Using legal advisers to co-ordinate your response also has the added advantage of legal privilege, to protect confidential communications between you and Pinsent Masons.
The Solution: Cyber Readiness

Cyber Readiness is a solution based on a simulation exercise designed to help you prepare your business for a cyber incident such that reputation is protected and fines are minimised.

Prepare your business to:
- Comply with information laws on a global scale
- Manage risk in the supply chain
- Act appropriately in a cyber breach or crisis

Implementing Cyber Readiness

There are four key stages to the process of implementing Cyber Readiness.

Stage 1: Cyber Readiness preparatory stage and fact finding
- This stage is designed to acquire sufficient factual background about your organisation by understanding internal arrangements and existing outsourcing arrangements, exploring the nature of data held by the organisation, and reviewing existing protocols to facilitate adequate tailoring of the simulation exercise.

Stage 2: Designing and tailoring realistic hypothetical simulation exercise
- Based on your input during the first stage, a hypothetical scenario would then be developed that would be realistic both to your organisation and the types of data it controls. A limited number of key stakeholders would be involved (typically one from each of the following functions: Legal; Information Systems; and Information Security) in order to provide input into the scenario, which would be agreed in advance of the simulation exercise.

Stage 3: Simulation exercise for your Incident Response Team
- The hypothetical scenario would form the basis of a simulation exercise, which would take place at your offices and run for approximately two hours. Attendees would include key stakeholders with responsibilities relevant to how your organisation manages its response to information security incidents. Limited details would be given to attendees at the outset, with further information provided by way of "injects" during the simulation exercise. Attendees would be asked a series of questions about how they would respond. The simulation would run for around 90 minutes, followed by a debrief session lasting about 30 minutes.

Stage 4: Written report issued based on observations noted during simulation exercise
- Observations from the exercise would form the basis of a written report which would be issued following the exercise. It would include positive findings from the exercise summarised in broad terms together with any identified gaps (with accompanying recommendations where applicable). A copy would be provided in draft for your consideration and input before it was finalised and issued.
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