UK Legal Aid Agency says attackers stole records dating back to 1978



The UK Legal Aid Agency says attackers who breached its IT systems in April 2025 took records going back to 1978. The source excerpt gives no further detail.

- The Legal Aid Agency is an executive agency of the UK Ministry of Justice.
- It manages the country's Public Defender Service.
- Attackers breached its IT systems in April 2025.
- The agency says the stolen records date back to 1978.

The UK Legal Aid Agency (LAA), an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice that manages the country's Public Defender Service, has said that attackers who breached its IT systems in April 2025 stole records dating back to 1978.

What the source states

The available excerpt confirms only a few points: the breach occurred in April 2025, and the stolen material includes records stretching back to 1978. It does not describe the types of data involved, the number of people affected, the attack method or the attackers.

Why it matters for regulated institutions

The notable point is the age of the data. Records kept for decades can sit in systems that were not designed with current security expectations, yet they may still contain sensitive information. Institutions in the Kingdom that hold long-lived case, customer or personnel files face the same question: is everything we retain still needed, and is it protected in proportion to its sensitivity?

Until fuller details are published, we advise treating this as a prompt to review retention and protection of legacy data rather than as a source of technical indicators. We will update this item if more verified information becomes available.

What to do now

1. Inventory legacy archives and identify the oldest records holding personal or confidential data.
2. Review retention schedules and securely dispose of data that no longer has a legal or business purpose.
3. Confirm that archived data has access controls, encryption and logging equal to live systems.
4. Check that incident response plans cover breaches involving historical data and PDPL notification duties.