

Physical data security in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health's administrative sector

This report is a summary of audits concerning physical data security which were conducted in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health's administrative sector. The audits indicated deficiencies in the managing of data security, fire safety and the protection of facilities. Some agencies and facilities had protection classifications which were open to interpretation and unclear.

Serious damage to property did not come to light in the audit. The administrative sector has not systematically reviewed data security observations and known data security threats, however. Written guidelines and different facilities' security classifications also needed to be developed and updated. The State Audit Office has emphasized the importance of systematic risk assessment and the effective flow of information in managing data security.

Most of the problems observed in the audit were corrected during the audit. Some corrections were put off or ruled out because of the large investments required to make changes, however. In the opinion of the State Audit Office, correcting problems does not always require investments in technical solutions. Data security can often be improved with the help of training, supervision and information. The State Audit Office considers it important for state administration to pay attention to physical data security and correcting deficiencies in this area.