



MULLEN
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426 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200
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March 23, 2022

VIA E-MAIL

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
E-mail: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Re: Notice of Data Event

Dear Sir or Madam:

We represent International Food Policy Research Institute (“IFPRI”), located at 1201 Eye St., NW, Washington, DC 20005, and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of some personal information relating to one (1) Maryland resident. The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and this notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, IFPRI does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law, the applicability of the Maryland data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

Nature of the Data Event

On or about December 7, 2021, IFPRI became aware of unusual activity related to certain files within its email environment. IFPRI immediately commenced an investigation to better understand the nature and scope of this activity. It was determined that the certain files may have been removed from IFPRI systems without authorization between October 9, 2021 and October 28, 2021. Out of an abundance of caution, a programmatic and manual review of the contents of the potentially affected files was completed to determine whether sensitive information was present in the files at the time of the incident. This process was completed on February 9, 2022. Through this process, IFPRI determined that certain personal information was accessible. Thereafter, IFPRI performed an internal review for address information in order to notify potentially affected individuals which concluded on February 25, 2022.

The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes name, address, and passport information.

Notice to Maryland Resident

On or about March 23, 2022, IFPRI provided written notice of this incident to all affected individuals, which includes one (1) Maryland resident. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as ***Exhibit A***.

Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

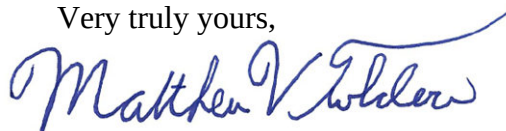
Upon discovering the event, IFPRI moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of IFPRI systems, and notify potentially affected individuals. IFPRI is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. IFPRI is providing access to credit monitoring services for one (1) year, through IDX, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, IFPRI is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. IFPRI is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4554.

Very truly yours,



Matthew V. Toldero of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

MVT/emw
Enclosure

EXHIBIT A



1201 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20005

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>
<<Country>>

March 23, 2022

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>:

International Food Policy Research Institute (“IFPRI”) is sending you this letter to inform you of an incident that may affect the security of some of your personal information. This notice provides information about the incident, our response, and resources available to you to help protect your information from possible misuse, should you feel it necessary to do so.

What Happened? On or about December 7, 2021, IFPRI became aware of unusual activity related to certain files within our email environment. IFPRI immediately commenced an investigation to better understand the nature and scope of this activity. It was determined that the certain files may have been removed from IFPRI systems without authorization between October 9, 2021 and October 28, 2021. Out of an abundance of caution, a programmatic and manual review of the contents of the potentially affected files was completed to determine whether sensitive information was present in the files at the time of the incident. This process was completed on February 9, 2022. Through this process, we determined that certain personal information was accessible. Thereafter, IFPRI performed an internal review for address information in order to notify potentially affected individuals which concluded on February 25, 2022. We are unable to confirm whether the information was actually accessed or viewed by the unauthorized individuals and are providing this notice out of an abundance of caution.

What Information Was Involved? It cannot be confirmed whether information related to you was actually accessed or viewed during this incident. However, IFPRI is notifying you out of an abundance of caution. The information related to you that was accessible within the potentially affected files includes your name and the following: [data elements].

What We Are Doing. We take this incident and the security of personal information in our care seriously. Upon learning of this incident, we moved quickly to investigate, respond, and assess the security of relevant systems. As part of our ongoing commitment to the security of information we are also reviewing existing policies and procedures to reduce the likelihood of a similar future incident. We are also offering you access to complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services for twelve (12) months through IDX. These services include twelve (12) months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity theft recovery services. If you wish to activate the credit monitoring and identity protection services, you may follow the instructions included in the *Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information*.

What You Can Do. We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors. You may also review the information contained in the attached *Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information*. There you will also find more information on the credit monitoring and identity protection services we are making available to you. While IFPRI will cover the cost of these services, you will need to complete the activation process.

For More Information. We understand that you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, please call John Hanly at (202) 862-5640.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Fields". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "F".

James Fields
Director of Finance and Administration
<https://www.ifpri.org/>

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Enroll in Credit Monitoring and Identity Protection Services

- 1. Website and Enrollment.** Go to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code: [Code].
- 2. Activate the credit monitoring** provided as part of your IDX identity protection membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, IDX will be able to assist you.
- 3. Telephone.** Contact IDX at 1-800-939-4170 to gain additional information about this event and speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect your credit identity.

Monitor Your Accounts

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of your credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended “fraud alert” on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer’s credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer’s credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer’s identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a “credit freeze” on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer’s express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Addresses for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver’s license or ID card, etc.); and
7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if you are a victim of identity theft.

Should you wish to place a credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/	https://www.experian.com/help/	https://www.transunion.com/credit-help
888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	833-395-6938
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

Additional Information

You may further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and your state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; and oag@dc.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-528-8662 or 1-888-743-0023; and www.oag.state.md.us. IFPRI is located at 1201 Eye St., NW, Washington DC 20005.