

December 2, 2022

Anjali C. Das
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Anjali.Das@wilsonelser.com

Via Email to IDTheft@oag.state.md.us

Attorney General Brian Frosh
Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Cybersecurity Incident Involving CWS Corporate Housing LLC

Dear Attorney Brian Frosh:

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman and Dicker LLP (“Wilson Elser”) represents CWS Corporate Housing, LLC (“CWS”), a short term rental property entity operating in Round Rock, Texas, with respect to a recent data privacy incident that was first discovered by CWS on October 3, 2021 (hereinafter, the “Incident”). CWS takes the security and privacy of the information in its control very seriously, and has taken steps to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future.

This letter will serve to inform you of the nature of the Incident, what information may have been compromised, the number of Maryland residents being notified, and the steps CWS has taken in response to the Incident. We have also enclosed hereto a sample of the notification made to the potentially impacted individuals, which includes an offer of free credit monitoring services.

1. Nature of the Incident

On or about October 3, 2021, CWS detected unusual activity on its network which resulted in a ransomware incident. Upon discovery of this incident, CWS immediately disconnected all access to the network and promptly engaged a specialized third-party cybersecurity firm to assist with securing the environment, as well as, to conduct a comprehensive forensic investigation to determine the nature and scope of the Incident. The forensics investigation revealed that an unauthorized third party gained access to the network and may have viewed personal data stored on the server. Based on these findings, CWS engaged a data mining firm to complete a full review of the systems to identify specific individuals and the types of information that may have been compromised. On October 3, 2022, CWS determined the incident involved personally identifiable information (“PII”).

CWS believes that the vast majority of impacted individual’s PII was not obtained. On November 23, 2022, CWS discovered that the impacted population included a Maryland resident.

55 West Monroe Street, Suite 3800 | Chicago, IL 60603 | p 312.704.0550 | f 312.704.1522 | wilsonelser.com

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Detroit, MI | Edwardsville, IL | Florham Park, NJ | Garden City, NY | Hartford, CT | Houston, TX | Jackson, MS | Las Vegas, NV | London, England | Los Angeles, CA
Louisville, KY | McLean, VA | Merrillville, IN | Miami, FL | Milwaukee, WI | Nashville, TN | New Orleans, LA | New York, NY | Orlando, FL | Philadelphia, PA | Phoenix, AZ
Raleigh, NC | San Diego, CA | San Francisco, CA | Sarasota, FL | Seattle, WA | Stamford, CT | St. Louis, MO | Washington, DC | West Palm Beach, FL | White Plains, NY

As of this writing, CWS has not received any reports of related identity theft since the Incident (October 3, 2021 to present).

2. Number of Maryland residents affected.

A total of one Maryland resident was potentially affected by this Incident. A notification letter to this individual is scheduled to be mailed on November 29, 2022 by first class mail. A sample copy of the notification letter is included with this letter under **Exhibit A**.

3. Steps taken in response to the Incident.

CWS is committed to ensuring the security and privacy of all personal information in its control, and is taking steps to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future. Upon discovery of the Incident, CWS moved quickly to investigate, respond, and confirm the security of our systems. Specifically, CWS rebuilt each of their servers and installed LionGuard and CarbonBlack antivirus on each computer and newly rebuilt server to scan and detect for any remaining or forthcoming evidence of another attack. CWS confirmed that all 365 data had not been effected and migrated any remaining data up to the Microsoft Cloud. CWS has also employed CrowdStrike to provide 24/7/365 managed threat protection on all computers and servers in the network. The Falcon Complete program allows for automated remediation and intervention during any suspected attack along with a support team manually monitoring for any possible threats.

Although CWS is not aware of any actual or attempted misuse of the affected personal information, CWS is offering 12 months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft restoration services through Kroll to all individuals to help protect their identity. Additionally, CWS provided guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including providing information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, the contact details for 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 the contact details for the Federal Trade Commission.

1. Contact Information

CWS Corporate Housing LLC remains dedicated to protecting the sensitive information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Anjali.Das@wilsonelser.com or 312-821-6164.

Very truly yours,

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP



Anjali C. Das

Exhibit A



<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>

Re: Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear <<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>,

CWS Corporate Housing LLC (“CWS”) is writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have resulted in an unauthorized access to your sensitive personal information. While we are unaware of any fraudulent misuse of your personal information at this time, we are providing you with details about the incident, steps we are taking in response, and resources available to help you protect against the potential misuse of your information.

What Happened?

On or about October 3, 2021, CWS detected unusual activity on our network which resulted in a ransomware incident. Upon discovery of this incident, CWS immediately disconnected all access to the network and promptly engaged a specialized third-party cybersecurity firm to assist with securing the environment, as well as, to conduct a comprehensive forensic investigation to determine the nature and scope of the incident. The forensic investigation concluded on December 22, 2021. Based on these findings, CWS engaged a data mining firm to complete a full review of the systems to identify specific individuals and the types of information that may have been compromised. On October 3, 2022, CWS determined the incident involved personal identifiable information (“PII”).

CWS believes that the vast majority of impacted individual’s PII was not obtained. Out of an abundance of caution, CWS is providing notification to all potentially impacted individuals, regardless of the information not being subject to unauthorized access and or acquisition. On November 10, 2022 CWS finalized the list of individuals to notify.

What Information Was Involved?

Although CWS has no evidence that any sensitive information has been misused by third parties as a result of this incident, we are notifying you out of an abundance of caution and for purposes of full transparency. Based on the investigation, the following information related to you may have been subject to unauthorized access: name; address; date of birth; Social Security number; driver’s license number, financial account number; and medical information.

What We Are Doing

Data privacy and security is among CWS’s highest priorities, and we are committed to doing everything we can to protect the privacy and security of the personal information in our care. Since the discovery of the incident, CWS moved quickly to investigate, respond, and confirm the security of our systems. Specifically, CWS rebuilt each of their servers and installed LionGuard and CarbonBlack antivirus on each computer and newly rebuilt server to scan and detect for any remaining or forthcoming evidence of another attack. CWS confirmed that all 365 data had not been effected and migrated any remaining data up to the Microsoft Cloud. CWS has also employed CrowdStrike to provide 24/7/365 managed threat protection on all computers and servers in the network. The Falcon Complete program allows for automated remediation and intervention during any suspected attack along with a support team manually monitoring for any possible threats.

To help relieve concerns and restore confidence following this incident, we have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for 12 months. Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping people who have sustained an unintentional exposure of confidential data. Your identity monitoring services include Credit Monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<b2b_text_6 (activation date)>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Membership Number s_n>>

For more information about Kroll and your Identity Monitoring services, you can visit info.krollmonitoring.com.

Additional information describing your services is included with this letter.

What You Can Do

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious or unauthorized activity. Additionally, security experts suggest that you contact your financial institution and all major credit bureaus to inform them of such a breach and then take whatever steps are recommended to protect your interests, including the possible placement of a fraud alert on your credit file. Please review the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information*, to learn more about how to protect against the possibility of information misuse.

We would like to reiterate that, at this time, there is no evidence that your information was misused. However, we encourage you to take full advantage of the services offered.

For More Information

If you have questions, please call [TFN](#), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Central Time (excluding major U.S. holidays). Please have your membership number ready.

CWS sincerely regrets any concern or inconvenience this matter may cause, and remains dedicated to ensuring the privacy and security of all information in our control.

Sincerely,

Teresa N. Taylor-Mathis

Teresa N. Taylor-Mathis, CPA
Vice President of Finance and Accounting
CWS Corporate Housing

Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information

Credit Reports: You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports>) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone or online. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. As of September 21, 2018, initial fraud alerts last for one year. Victims of identity theft can also get an extended fraud alert for seven years.

Experian
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742

www.experian.com/fraud/center.html

TransUnion
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
1-800-680-7289

www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts

Equifax
P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
1-800-525-6285

<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/>

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and by monitoring your credit report for suspicious or unusual activity.

Security Freeze: You have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, regular stamped mail, or by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse or a minor under the age of 16, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. As of September 21, 2018, it is free to place, lift, or remove a security freeze. You may also place a security freeze for children under the age of 16. You may obtain a free security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

Experian
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742

www.experian.com/freeze/center.html

TransUnion
P.O. Box 160
Woodlyn, PA 19094
1-888-909-8872

www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

Equifax
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
1-888-298-0045

<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>

File Police Report: You have the right to file or obtain a police report if you experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can generally report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

FTC and Attorneys General: You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes, and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.identitytheft.gov, 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338), 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. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement.

For residents of Iowa: State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

For residents of Massachusetts: It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to obtain a police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

For residents of New Mexico: State law advises you to review personal account statements and credit reports, as applicable, to detect errors resulting from the security breach. You have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated

negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violators. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act at www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For residents of Oregon: State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, including the Attorney General, and the Federal Trade Commission.

For residents of Rhode Island: It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to file or obtain a police report in regard to this incident.

For residents of Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island: You can obtain information from the Offices of the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft.

Federal Trade Commission - Consumer Response Center: 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580; 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338); www.identitytheft.gov

Arizona Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection & Advocacy Section, 2005 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004 1-602-542-5025

Colorado Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection 1300 Broadway, 9th Floor, Denver, CO 80203 1-720-508-6000 www.coag.gov

District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General – Office of Consumer Protection: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; www.oag.dc.gov

Illinois office of the Attorney General - 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601; 1-866-999-5630; www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov

Maryland Office of the Attorney General - Consumer Protection Division: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; www.oag.state.md.us

New York Office of Attorney General - Consumer Frauds & Protection: The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; 1-800-771-7755; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/identity-theft>

North Carolina Office of the Attorney General - Consumer Protection Division: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; 1-877-566-7226; www.ncdoj.com

Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General - Consumer Protection: 150 South Main St., Providence RI 02903; 1-401-274-4400; www.riag.ri.gov



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services from Kroll:

Single Bureau Credit Monitoring

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you’ll have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft.

Fraud Consultation

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

Identity Theft Restoration

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator will be able to dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

Kroll’s activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Edge.

To receive credit services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.