

August 15, 2023

VIA EMAIL: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

Notice of Data Breach

Dear Attorney General Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the George Mason University Foundation (“GMUF” or the “Foundation”), with its headquarters located 4400 University Drive MS 1A3, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, to provide a report of a recent data breach.

As you are likely aware, a data security incident was reported with the third-party file transfer application MOVEit Transfer, impacting organizations and exposing personal data worldwide. While GMUF does not use the MOVEit Transfer application, some of our third-party service providers do. The breach did not occur on any of GMUF’s systems, but it has impacted at least one bank with which we do business, as the result of the use of the application by a vendor of the bank, Pension Benefit Information, LLC (“PBI”). The bank has notified GMUF that personally identifiable information of 6 GMUF donors, 1 of whom is a Maryland resident, has been exposed in the incident.

PBI has reported that upon learning of the MOVEit vulnerability, PBI promptly patched the vulnerability and began an investigation of the incident with the assistance of third-party cybersecurity specialists. Through the investigation, PBI states that it has determined that an unknown actor accessed one of PBI’s MOVEit servers on May 29, 2023, and May 30, 2023, and downloaded files uploaded to the server by various PBI clients, including our bank.

Although PBI has stated that it intends to notify the individuals whose names, social security numbers, dates of birth, and addresses were stored within the impacted MOVEit server, that notice may be delayed by several weeks. As such, rather than waiting for PBI’s notices to be sent, GMUF is sending its own preliminary notice to these individuals on August 16, 2023. PBI has committed to providing complimentary credit monitoring and identity restoration services for

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August 15, 2023
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the affected individuals described above, but in the interim, GMUF is providing a preliminary notice to the affected GMUF donors about additional steps they can take now to protect themselves from credit fraud and identity theft. Copies of (i) the form of letter GMUF has sent to its donors as a preliminary notification and (ii) the template letter PBI provided to our bank as an example of the notification that they will send, are enclosed.

If you have any questions about the information provided in this letter, or this incident generally, please feel free to contact me at the email or phone numbers listed above.

Sincerely,



Janet P. Peyton

Encls: GMUF preliminary notification letter
PBI notification letter template

[GMUF Letterhead]

August ____, 2023

Re: Data Security Incident

Dear _____,

Recently, a data security incident was reported with the third-party file transfer application MOVEit Transfer, impacting organizations and exposing personal data worldwide. While George Mason University Foundation (GMUF) does not use the MOVEit Transfer application, some of our third-party service providers do. The breach did not occur on any of GMUF's systems, but it has impacted at least one bank with which we do business, as the result of the use of the application by a vendor of the bank, Pension Benefit Information, LLC ("PBI"). The bank has notified GMUF that personally identifiable information of a few GMUF donors has been or may have been exposed.

PBI has reported that upon learning of the MOVEit vulnerability, PBI promptly patched the vulnerability and began an investigation of the incident with the assistance of third-party cybersecurity specialists. Through the investigation, PBI determined that an unknown actor accessed one of PBI's MOVEit servers on May 29, 2023, and May 30, 2023, and downloaded files uploaded to the server by various PBI clients, including our bank.

We are writing to you because although PBI intends to notify the individuals whose names, social security numbers, dates of birth, and addresses were stored within the impacted MOVEit server, that notice may be delayed by several weeks. At GMUF we care about the security of your data and want to alert you to this matter now, so that you can take additional steps to protect your identity. PBI has committed to providing complimentary credit monitoring and identity restoration services for the affected individuals, and details about that service will be included in their forthcoming letter to you.

What You Can Do Now

You may wish to take action now, before receiving the credit monitoring information from PBI. Here are some things you can do now, if you wish, to protect yourself from identity theft:

- **Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting agencies:**
 - **Equifax**, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111
 - **Experian**, PO Box 2104, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
 - **TransUnion**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-888-4213
- **Free Credit Report.** It is recommended that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity, especially activity that may indicate fraud and identity theft. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies.
 - To order your annual free credit report 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 from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") website at www.consumer.ftc.gov) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

- **For Maryland residents:** In addition to the free credit report you can receive under federal law, you may obtain one additional copy of your credit report, free of charge, under Maryland law. You must contact each of the credit reporting agencies directly to obtain such additional report(s).
- **Fraud Alerts.** There are two types of fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for at least one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft and you have the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting any of the three national credit reporting agencies.
- **Security Freeze.** You have the ability to place a security freeze, also known as a credit freeze, on your credit report free of charge. 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 may use an online process, an automated telephone line, or submit a written request to any of the three credit reporting agencies listed above. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that, if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse, 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 5 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, and display your name, current mailing address, and the date of issue.
- **Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General Offices.** If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your home state. You may also contact these agencies for information on how to prevent or minimize the risks of identity theft.
- You may contact the **Federal Trade Commission**, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).
- If you believe you are the victim of identity theft, file a police report and notify the Federal Trade Commission at www.identitytheft.gov.

GMUF takes the privacy of your personal information very seriously and we regret that your information was involved in this vendor's security incident. If you have questions about this notice, please contact me at the email or number below.

Sincerely,

Beth Cantrell, CPA
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Tel: 703-993-5414
Email: ecantrel@gmuf.org



<<Return Mail Address>>

<<Name 1>> <<Name 2>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

<<Country>>

<<Date>>

<<Notice of Data Breach>>

Dear <<Name 1>> <<Name 2>>:

Pension Benefit Information, LLC (“PBI”) provides audit and address research services for insurance companies, pension funds, and other organizations<<, including <<Data Owner>>. PBI is providing notice of a third-party software event that may affect the security of some of your information. Although we have no indication of identity theft or fraud in relation to this event, we are providing you with information about the event, our response, and additional measures you can take to help protect your information, should you feel it appropriate to do so.

What Happened? On or around May 31, 2023, Progress Software, the provider of MOVEit Transfer software disclosed a vulnerability in their software that had been exploited by an unauthorized third party. PBI utilizes MOVEit in the regular course of our business operations to securely transfer files. PBI promptly launched an investigation into the nature and scope of the MOVEit vulnerability’s impact on our systems. Through the investigation, we learned that the third party accessed one of our MOVEit Transfer servers on May 29, 2023 and May 30, 2023 and downloaded data. We then conducted a manual review of our records to confirm the identities of individuals potentially affected by this event and their contact information to provide notifications. We recently completed this review.

What Information Was Involved? Our investigation determined that the following types of information related to you were present in the server at the time of the event: name and <<Data Elements>>.

What We Are Doing. We take this event and the security of information in our care seriously. Upon learning about this vulnerability, we promptly took steps to patch servers, investigate, assess the security of our systems, and notify potentially affected customers and individuals associated with those customers. In response to this event, we are also reviewing and enhancing our information security policies and procedures.

While we are unaware of any identity theft or fraud as a result of this event, as an additional precaution, PBI is offering you access to <<12/24>> months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity restoration services through Kroll. Details of this offer and instructions on how to activate these services are enclosed with this letter.

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 for the next twelve to twenty-four months and to report suspected identity theft incidents to the institution. Please also review the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information*, which contains information on what you can do to safeguard against possible misuse of your information. You can also enroll in the credit monitoring services that we are offering.

For More Information. If you have additional questions, you may call our toll-free assistance line at <<Kroll Call Center Number>> Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm Eastern time (excluding U.S. holidays). You may also write to PBI at 333 South Seventh Street, Suite 2400, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

Sincerely,

John Bikus
President
Pension Benefit Information, LLC

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Enroll in Kroll's Monitoring Services

To help relieve concerns and restore confidence following this event, we have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for <<12/24>> 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.¹

Visit <<IDMonitoringURL>> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<Date>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Member ID>>

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

Additional Information

- **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.

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 a free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. Consumers may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of their 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 one-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 consumers are the victim of identity theft, they are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should consumers wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any 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 a consumer’s name without consent. However, consumers should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in their credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application they make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, consumers cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on their credit report. To request a credit freeze, individuals may need to provide some or all of the following information:

¹ 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.

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 they are a victim of identity theft.

Should consumers wish to place a credit freeze or fraud alert, 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
1-888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1-800-916-8800
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

Consumers may further educate themselves regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps they can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or their state attorney general. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 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. Consumers can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. Consumers have the right to file a police report if they ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, consumers will likely need to provide some proof that they have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and the relevant 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, D.C. 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 <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/>.

For Massachusetts residents, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event. 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 New Mexico residents, consumers have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in their credit file has been used against them, the right to know what is in their credit file, the right to ask for their credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting bureaus must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to consumers' files is limited; consumers must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; consumers may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance based on information in their credit report; and consumers may seek damages from violators. Consumers 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 consumers to review their rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting 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 New York residents, the New York Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; or <https://ag.ny.gov>.

For North Carolina residents, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and www.ncdoj.gov.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; www.riag.ri.gov; and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, individuals have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event. Fees may be required to be paid to the consumer reporting agencies. There are approximately [X] Rhode Island residents that may be impacted by this event.