

February 5, 2024

Via E-Mail: DOJ-CPB@doj.nh.gov

Attorney General John M. Formella

Consumer Protection Bureau
Office of the Attorney General
1 Granite Place South
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Cybersecurity Incident Involving American Alarm & Communications, Inc.

Dear Attorney General Formella:

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman and Dicker LLP (“Wilson Elser”) represents American Alarm & Communications, Inc. (“American Alarm”), a security and life safety systems provider for residential and commercial customers located in Arlington, Massachusetts, with respect to a recent cybersecurity incident that was first discovered by American Alarm on November 28, 2023 (hereinafter, the “Incident”). American Alarm 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 New Hampshire residents being notified, and the steps that American Alarm 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 November 28, 2023, American Alarm detected suspicious activity on its IT system. Upon discovery of this Incident, American Alarm promptly took steps to secure its network environment and engaged a specialized cybersecurity firm to investigate the nature and scope of the Incident. As a result of the investigation, American Alarm learned that an unauthorized actor potentially accessed and acquired certain files and data stored within American Alarm’s network environment.

American Alarm immediately began a thorough review of the potentially accessed files to identify the clients whose sensitive information was present at the time of the Incident. This step was necessary so that American Alarm could send a notice of the Incident to ensure the potentially impacted individuals are aware of this Incident. On January 4, 2024, the investigation identified persons whose sensitive information may have been accessed.

Although American Alarm is unaware of any fraudulent misuse of information, it is possible that individuals’

As of this writing, American Alarm has not received any reports of related identity theft since the date of the incident (November 28, 2023 to present).

2. Number of residents affected.

A total of ninety-one (91) New Hampshire residents may have been potentially affected by this incident. Notification letters to these individuals were mailed on February 1, 2024, 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.

American Alarm 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, American Alarm moved quickly to investigate and respond to the Incident, assessed the security of its systems, and notified the potentially affected individuals. Specifically, American Alarm engaged a specialized cybersecurity firm to conduct a forensic investigation to determine the nature and scope of the Incident. American Alarm has deployed additional monitoring tools and will continue to enhance the security of our systems.

Although American Alarm is not aware of any actual or attempted misuse of the affected personal information, American Alarm offered of complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft restoration services through TransUnion to all individuals to help protect their identity. Additionally, American Alarm 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 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 the contact details for the Federal Trade Commission.

4. Contact information

American Alarm 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

Very truly yours,

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Dominik J. Cvitanovic, Esq.

EXHIBIT A

American Alarm & Communications, Inc.
c/o Cyberscout
1 Keystone Ave., Unit 700
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
DB08415 4-1



February 1, 2024

Dear

American Alarm and Communications, Inc. (“American Alarm”) is writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have resulted in 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. Please be assured that American Alarm takes the protection and proper use of your personal information very seriously.

What Happened?

On November 28, 2023, American Alarm detected suspicious activity in its network environment. Upon discovery of this incident, American Alarm promptly took steps to secure its network environment and engaged a specialized cybersecurity firm to investigate the nature and scope of the incident. As a result of the investigation, American Alarm learned that an unauthorized actor accessed and acquired certain files and data stored within our network.

Upon learning this, American Alarm launched a review of the potentially affected data to identify the individuals and information involved. On January 4, 2024, American Alarm identified persons whose personally identifiable information (“PII”) was included within the impacted data. At this time, we have no evidence any of the information has been misused by a third party, but because information related to you was disclosed, we are notifying you out of full transparency.

What Information Was Involved?

The following data was potentially acquired by a person not authorized to view them:

What We Are Doing?

Data security is one of our highest priorities. Upon detecting this incident, we moved quickly to initiate an investigation, which included retaining a leading forensic firm who assisted in conducting an investigation and confirming the security of our network environment. We also deployed additional monitoring tools and will continue to enhance the security of our systems. We take the protection and proper use of personal information very seriously.

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As part of our ongoing commitment to information privacy and the security of information, we are notifying you of this incident, and we are providing you with access to **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score** services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your credit file. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. Finally, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions that you might have or in event that you become a victim of fraud. These services will be provided by Cyberscout through Identity Force, a TransUnion company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services.

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.

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/aaacinc> and follow

. Please note that the code is case-sensitive and will need to be entered as it appears.

To receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please note we are unable to take this step for you. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Once enrolled you will have of monitoring services. At the end of , the services will be deactivated. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

For More Information

Representatives from Cyberscout are available for 90 days from the date of this letter, to assist you with questions regarding this incident, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Please call the help line 1-800-405-6108 and supply the fraud specialist with the unique code listed above. The call center representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

At American Alarm, we take our responsibilities to protect your personal information very seriously. We deeply regret his situation and apologize for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Wells Sampson, President

Louis Sampson, Chief Financial Officer

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Additional 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.

Security Freeze: You also 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:

Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-349-9960 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/	Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/freeze/center.html	TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-888-909-8872 www.transunion.com/credit-freeze
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Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone and online with:

- Equifax ([https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud Alert Request Form.pdf](https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud%20Alert%20Request%20Form.pdf));
- TransUnion (<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>); or
- Experian ([https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html](http://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html)).

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. The phone numbers for all three credit bureaus are at the bottom of this page.

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant and monitor your accounts for suspicious or unusual activity.

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. 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. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

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For Arizona residents, the Attorney General may be contacted at the Consumer Protection & Advocacy Section, 2005 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, 1-602-542-5025.

For Colorado residents, the Attorney General may be contacted through Consumer Protection 1300 Broadway, 9th Floor, Denver, CO 80203 1-720-508-6000, www.coag.gov.

For District of Columbia residents, the Attorney General may be contacted at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 441 4th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, 1-202-727-3400, www.oag.dc.gov.

For Illinois residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601; 1-866-999-5630; www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

For Iowa residents, you can report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

For Massachusetts residents, 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 Maryland residents, you may also wish to review information provided by the Maryland Attorney General on how to avoid identity theft at <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IdentityTheft/default.aspx>, or by sending an email to idtheft@oag.state.md.us, or calling 410-576-6491.

For New Mexico residents, state law advises you to review personal account statements and credit reports, as applicable, to detect errors resulting from the security breach. You also 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_cfbp_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, you may contact and obtain information from these state agencies: *New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection*, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, <http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection>; and *New York State Office of the Attorney General*, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov>

For North Carolina residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6400, and www.ncdoj.gov. You may also obtain information about steps you can take to prevent identify theft from the North Carolina Attorney General at <https://ncdoj.gov/protecting-consumers/protecting-your-identity/protect-yourself-from-id-theft/>.

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

For Rhode Island residents, this incident involves 52 individuals in Rhode Island. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described above. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Rhode Island Attorney General's Office*, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, 1-401-274-4400, www.riag.ri.gov.

For Vermont Residents, if you do not have internet access but would like to learn more about how to place a security freeze on your credit report, contact the Vermont Attorney General's Office at 802-656-3183 (800-649-2424 toll free in Vermont only).

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