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October 4, 2021

VIA U.S. MAIL

Attorney General John Formella
Office of the Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: The Cook Group – Incident Notification

Dear Mr. Formella:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents The Cook Group. I am writing to provide notification of an incident at The Cook Group that may affect the security of personal information of approximately two (2) New Hampshire residents. The Cook Group's investigation is ongoing, and this notification will be supplemented with any new or significant facts or findings subsequent to this submission, if any. By providing this notice, The Cook Group does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law or personal jurisdiction.

An unauthorized party obtained access to two (2) employee email accounts. Upon learning of this issue, The Cook Group secured the accounts and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of its investigation, The Cook Group worked very closely with external cybersecurity professionals. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, The Cook Group discovered on September 3, 2021 that the email accounts that were accessed between June 17, 2020 and July 10, 2020, contained a limited amount of personal information, including the affected residents' full names and Social Security numbers.

To date, The Cook Group has no evidence that any information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, The Cook Group wanted to inform you (and the affected residents) of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected residents against identity fraud. The Cook Group is providing the affected residents with written notification of this incident commencing on or about October 5, 2021 in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. The Cook Group is offering the affected residents complimentary one-year memberships with a credit monitoring service. The Cook Group is advising the affected residents about the process for placing fraud alerts and/or security freezes on their credit files and obtaining free credit reports. The affected residents are also being provided with the contact information for the consumer reporting agencies and the Federal Trade Commission.

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At The Cook Group, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. The Cook Group remains fully committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. The Cook Group continually evaluates and modifies its practices to enhance the security and privacy of personal information.

Should you have any questions concerning this notification, please contact me at (248) 593-2952 or cbattersby@mcdonaldhopkins.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin M. Battersby", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "M".

Colin M. Battersby

Encl.



Return Mail Processing Center

Dear [REDACTED]:

The privacy and security of your personal information is of the utmost importance to The Cook Group. We are writing with important information regarding a recent data security incident that may have involved some of your information. We want to provide you with information about the incident, tell you about the services that we are providing to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

An unauthorized party obtained access to two (2) employee email accounts.

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of this issue, we secured the accounts and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we have worked very closely with external cybersecurity professionals. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, we discovered on September 3, 2021 that the email accounts that were accessed between June 17, 2020 and July 10, 2020, contained some of your personal information.

What Information Was Involved.

The accessed accounts contained some of your personal information, specifically your full name and: [REDACTED].

What You Can Do.

We have no evidence that any of your information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we want to make you aware of the incident. To protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering a complimentary one-year membership in Equifax® Credit Watch Gold. Equifax® Credit Watch Gold is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention and Equifax® Credit Watch Gold, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary one-year membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit files, and/or obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

For More Information.

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We remain fully committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call our toll free response line at [REDACTED].
The response line is available Monday through Friday, 9am to 9pm Eastern.

Sincerely,

The Cook Group

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

1. **Enrolling in Complimentary 12-Month Credit Monitoring.**



Activation Code: [REDACTED]

Enrollment Deadline: [REDACTED]

Equifax Credit Watch™ Gold

*Note: You must be over age 18 with a credit file to take advantage of the product.

Equifax® Credit Watch™ Gold provides you with the following key features:

- Credit monitoring with email notifications of key changes to your Equifax credit report
- Daily access to your Equifax credit report
- WebScan notifications¹ when your personal information, such as Social Security Number, credit/debit card or bank account numbers are found on fraudulent Internet trading sites
- Automatic fraud alerts², which encourages potential lenders to take extra steps to verify your identity before extending credit, plus blocked inquiry alerts and Equifax credit report lock³
- Identity Restoration to help restore your identity should you become a victim of identity theft, and a dedicated Identity Restoration Specialist to work on your behalf
- Up to \$1,000,000 of identity theft insurance coverage for certain out of pocket expenses resulting from identity theft⁴

Enrollment Instructions

Go to [REDACTED]

Enter your unique Activation Code of [REDACTED] then click “Submit” and follow these 4 steps:

1. **Register:**

Complete the form with your contact information and click “Continue”.

If you already have a myEquifax account, click the ‘Sign in here’ link under the “Let’s get started” header.

Once you have successfully signed in, you will skip to the Checkout Page in Step 4

2. **Create Account:**

Enter your email address, create a password, and accept the terms of use.

3. **Verify Identity:**

To enroll in your product, we will ask you to complete our identity verification process.

4. **Checkout:**

Upon successful verification of your identity, you will see the Checkout Page.

Click ‘Sign Me Up’ to finish enrolling.

You’re done!

The confirmation page shows your completed enrollment.

Click “View My Product” to access the product features.

¹ WebScan searches for your Social Security Number, up to 5 passport numbers, up to 6 bank account numbers, up to 6 credit/debit card numbers, up to 6 email addresses, and up to 10 medical ID numbers. WebScan searches thousands of Internet sites where consumers’ personal information is suspected of being bought and sold, and regularly adds new sites to the list of those it searches. However, the Internet addresses of these suspected Internet trading sites are not published and frequently change, so there is no guarantee that we are able to locate and search every possible Internet site where consumers’ personal information is at risk of being traded.

² The Automatic Fraud Alert feature is made available to consumers by Equifax Information Services LLC and fulfilled on its behalf by Equifax Consumer Services LLC.

³ Locking your Equifax credit report will prevent access to it by certain third parties. Locking your Equifax credit report will not prevent access to your credit report at any other credit reporting agency. Entities that may still have access to your Equifax credit report include: companies like Equifax Global Consumer Solutions, which provide you with access to your credit report or credit score, or monitor your credit report as part of a subscription or similar service; companies that provide you with a copy of your credit report or credit score, upon your request; federal, state and local government agencies and courts in certain circumstances; companies using the information in connection with the underwriting of insurance, or for employment, tenant or background screening purposes; companies that have a current account or relationship with you, and collection agencies acting on behalf of those whom you owe; companies that authenticate a consumer’s identity for purposes other than granting credit, or for investigating or preventing actual or potential fraud; and companies that wish to make pre-approved offers of credit or insurance to you. To opt out of such pre-approved offers, visit www.optoutprescreen.com.

⁴ The Identity Theft Insurance benefit is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company, under group or blanket policies issued to Equifax, Inc., or its respective affiliates for the benefit of its Members. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

To sign up for US Mail delivery, dial 1-855-833-9162 for access to the Equifax Credit Watch automated enrollment process. Note that all credit reports and alerts will be sent to you via US Mail only.

- 1. Activation Code:** You will be asked to enter your enrollment code as provided at the top of this letter.
- 2. Customer Information:** You will be asked to enter your home telephone number, home address, name, date of birth and Social Security Number.
- 3. Permissible Purpose:** You will be asked to provide Equifax with your permission to access your Equifax credit file and to monitor your file. Without your agreement, Equifax cannot process your enrollment.
- 4. Order Confirmation:** Equifax will provide a confirmation number with an explanation that you will receive your Fulfillment Kit via the US Mail (when Equifax is able to verify your identity) or a Customer Care letter with further instructions (if your identity can not be verified using the information provided). Please allow up to 10 business days to receive this information.

2. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary 12 month credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial one (1) year "Fraud Alert" on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

Equifax P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348 www.equifax.com 1-800-525-6285	Experian P.O. Box 2002 Allen, TX 75013 www.experian.com 1-888-397-3742	TransUnion LLC P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 www.transunion.com 1-800-680-728
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3. Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a "Security Freeze" be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/ 1-800-685-1111	Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 http://experian.com/freeze 1-888-397-3742	TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 http://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze 1-888-909-8872
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In order to place the security freeze, you'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name, or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the city in which you currently reside.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

4. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **www.annualcreditreport.com**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

5. Additional Helpful Resources.

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at www.ftc.gov/idtheft, by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If this notice letter states that your financial account information was impacted, we recommend that you contact your financial institution to inquire about steps to take to protect your account, including whether you should close your account or obtain a new account number.

New York Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft>; Telephone: 800-771-7755 (TDD/TYY Support: 800-788-9898); Medicare Fraud Control Unit Direct Line: 212-417-5397.

North Carolina Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Department of Justice, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226.

Oregon Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Oregon Attorney General's Office: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, www.doj.state.or.us/, Telephone: 877-877-9392.

6. **Protecting Your Medical Information.**

If this notice letter states that your medical treatment/diagnosis information was impacted, the following practices can help to protect you from medical identity theft.

- Only share your health insurance cards with your health care providers and other family members who are covered under your insurance plan or who help you with your medical care.
- Review your “explanation of benefits statement” which you receive from your health insurance company. Follow up with your insurance company or care provider for any items you do not recognize. If necessary, contact the care provider on the explanation of benefits statement and ask for copies of medical records from the date of the potential access (noted above) to current date.
- Ask your insurance company for a current year-to-date report of all services paid for you as a beneficiary. Follow up with your insurance company or the care provider for any items you do not recognize.