**From:** Will Sharpe
**To:** WHIP,Caren
**Cc:** HAMPTON,Elizabeth; SNOWDEN,Pennie; Kristina Mihalic; National - Government Cyber
**Subject:** HWLE Cyber Incident - Interim Update
**Date:** Saturday, 10 June 2023 4:47:16 PM
**Attachments:** image001.png
Office of the Australian Information Commission(37189848.1).xlsx
Interim update to impacted Departments and Agencies - 10 June 2023 - OAIC(37189818.1).pdf



Dear Caren

We are writing to you in relation to the recent cyber security incident experienced by HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, and to provide an interim update regarding our analysis of affected documents.

Based on the current status of our initial triage process, we have identified that the OAIC is affected based on the potential pool of exfiltrated data. The attached letter provides details of the current status of our analysis, next steps, and details of affected matters relating to your Organisation.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in the notification, please contact me, Kristina or cyber.lswg@hwle.com.au.

Kind regards

Will

**Will Sharpe**
Partner

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| Parent Client Code | Parent Client Name | Client Code | Client Name | Matter Code | Matter Name | File count |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| s 47F | Commonwealth Government Departments and | s 47F | Office of the Australian Information Com | s 47F | [redacted] | 1 |
| [redacted] | Commonwealth Government Departments and | [redacted] | Office of the Australian Information Com | [redacted] | [redacted] | 1 |
| s 47G | Commonwealth Government Departments and | s 47G | Office of the Australian Information Com | s 47G | [redacted] | 5 |
| s 47F | Commonwealth Government Departments and | s 47F | Office of the Australian Information Com | s 47F | [redacted] | 2 |

**Commercial in Confidence**

10 June 2023

Dear Caren

**Cyber Security Incident**

We are writing to provide you with an important update regarding the cyber incident experienced by HWL Ebsworth Lawyers (**HWLE**). Early yesterday morning HWLE became aware that the threat actor published exfiltrated data on the dark web. The threat actor claims to have published 1.4TB.

Given the publication yesterday, the purpose of this letter is to provide you with an interim update based on our initial manual triage of the potential exfiltrated data pool of 3.6TB.

As you know, HWLE has been implementing its data review plan to identify data relating to particular Organisations, matters or other stakeholders and ultimately impacted persons. We have previously outlined to you the phases of that plan.

We have materially completed our initial manual triage of the L - Drive and are well progressed with our triage of the H - Drive and G - Drive. These drives have been identified as locations containing impacted data likely to have been accessed and exfiltrated from HWLE's environment.

Based on the current status of the initial triage process, we have identified that your Organisation is affected based on the potential pool of exfiltrated data. In particular, to date we have identified documents relating to the matters listed in **the attachment** to this letter. As our triage process continues we will update you as to any other documents that are affected. We recognise that the affected documents will include information from other Departments and Agencies. We will be happy to work with you to identify the other Departments and Agencies that should be informed of these affected matters.

It is unclear whether documents from these matters have been published by the threat actor. We anticipate providing an update on this later next week.

**Next steps**

You may request a list of impacted documents for the identified matters. We will aim to provide this to you within 24 hours of your request.

You may also request access to the impacted dataset, and we will aim to provide this to you within three business days of your request.

To make a request, please contact cyber.lswg@hwle.com.au.

Whilst you may wish to undertake your own interim review of the impacted dataset, please note that we intend to carry out further analysis with the assistance of McGrathNicol to identify sensitive data within the dataset to facilitate identification and preparation of lists of impacted persons or other impacted parties, which will involve further manual reviews and checks. This

process will include identifying, not only personal information that might give rise to privacy data breach notification obligations, but also other categories of confidential or sensitive data. HWLE considers it beneficial for us to continue to manage this review process in order to avoid duplication of effort, minimise costs to our clients and ensure consistency in the approach.

**Personal information**

As you know, we have separately notified OAIC of the incident in accordance with our obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988*. We intend to work closely with you in assessing the risk of serious harm arising from the disclosure of the documents, and would welcome an opportunity to discuss the management of any notifications that are required to be given to affected persons.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to work through the impact of this incident.

If you wish to make a request as outlined above or have other specific queries, please contact cyber.lswg@hwle.com.au.

Yours sincerely

HWL Ebsworth cyber incident team
cyber.lswg@hwle.com.au

**Attachment - Potentially Impacted Matters for Your Organisation**