September 19, 2024

**VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION**

Attorney General Aaron Frey

Office of the Attorney General

Consumer Protection Division

Security Breach Notification

111 Sewall Street, 6th Floor

Augusta, ME 04330

Tel: 207-626-8800

**Re:** **Johnson & Wales University - Notice of Data Event**

To Whom It May Concern:

We represent Johnson & Wales University (“​JWU​”), located at 8 Abbot Park Place, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of certain personal information relating to approximately 159 Maine residents.  This notice may be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission.  By providing this notice, JWU​ does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maine​ law, the applicability of the Maine data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

**1. Nature of the Data Event**

On July 11, 2024, JWU learned of activity in its network that happened without its permission. In response, JWU took immediate steps to secure its systems and promptly launched an investigation. In so doing, JWU engaged digital forensics and incident response specialists to determine the nature and scope of the incident and to identify any information that may have been accessed or acquired without authorization. On August 21, 2024, JWU learned that personal information related to certain individuals may have been accessed in connection with the incident. JWU worked diligently to identify and gather contact information for potentially affected individuals and to engage a vendor to assist with notification. This process was completed on September 6, 2024.

The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes first and last name, as well as Social Security number and financial account information.

**2. Notice to Maine​ Residents**

On or about September 19, 2024, JWU​ provided written notice of this incident to approximately 159 Maine residents.  Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as ***Exhibit A***.

**3. Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken**

Upon discovering the event, ​JWU​ moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of ​JWU​ systems, and identify potentially affected individuals.  Further, JWU​ notified federal law enforcement regarding the event.  ​JWU​ also implemented additional safeguards and training.  ​JWU​ is providing access to credit monitoring services for twelve (12) months, through Kroll, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals, and​ is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud.  JWU​ is providing individuals with 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 encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

​​JWU​ is providing written notice of this incident to relevant state and federal regulators, as necessary, and to the three major credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.

**4. Contact Information**

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (336) 448-8552.

Very truly yours,

  

Matt Toldero of

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP