18 August 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

NOTIFICATION OF SECURITY COMPROMISE (DB01/22)

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) hereby notifies you in accordance with section 22 (1) (b) and (4) of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 4 of 2013 (POPI) and all other applicable data protection laws and regulations, that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the personal information of some SAICA data subjects have been accessed or acquired by an unauthorised person.

The nature of the personal information breach

The personal information breach was in the form of a phishing email that was sent to a SAICA employee. The SAICA employee compromised SAICA's network login details by clicking on the link within the phishing email and inserting login details. Various phishing emails were intermittently sent to SAICA employees and other stakeholders from the compromised employee's email. SAICA launched an investigation and determined 4650 (four-thousand-six-hundred-and-fifty) individuals were affected by the breach as well as the categories and approximate number of information records possibly affected. The identity of the unauthorised person/s who may have accessed or acquired the personal information is unknown to SAICA.

The likely consequences of the information breach are that the

- data subject who received the phishing email, clicked on the link within the email as well as entered the login information;
- unauthorised person may have tried to use the login details to access the data subject's personal information or others personal information;
- contact list and emails of the employee may have been accessed or acquired by an unauthorised person; and
- further phishing emails could have been sent to the employee's contact list from the employee's mailbox furthering their attack.

Measures taken

SAICA took immediate steps to safeguard our stakeholders' information. All SAICA employees were ordered to change their passwords, this includes the employee whose login details to SAICA's network were compromised. Multi-factor authentication was activated on all SAICA network users which is monitored on an ongoing basis.

As part of SAICA's ongoing IT security measures, employees are provided with detailed information on how to recognise phishing email scams. SAICA facilitated mandatory Data Security Training for all employees during February 2022 and March 2022.

SAICA issued a written notification of the security compromise to the 4650 (four-thousand-six-hundred-and-fifty) individuals via email as well as to other stakeholders on its website.

It is further important to note that the compromised credentials were not used to access SAICA's main member data base and systems or applications.

SAICA also notified the Information Regulator (South Africa) of these information security compromises.

Additional measures going forward

Although SAICA has on a consistent basis raised awareness regarding phishing emails, further ongoing awareness, training interventions and simulation exercises to test the resilience of our processes are being planned for SAICA employees. Furthermore, awareness exercises will be aimed at ensuring all employees are aware of their obligations on reporting any internal intrusion incidences.

In the meantime, SAICA will continue its investigation into this matter and take all steps available to it to institute action against the unauthorised persons once their identity is known to SAICA.

We take the protection of your personal information extremely seriously and reaffirm our commitment to the processing of your personal information in accordance with the provisions of POPI and all other applicable laws and regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information at: InformationOfficer@saica.co.za or saica@tip-offs.com.

Yours sincerely,

Freeman Nomvalo: Chief Executive Officer / Information Officer

NPO-020-050 VAT No. 4570104366
17 Fricker Road, Illovo, Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196
POSTAL ADDRESS Private Bag X32, Northlands, 2116
TEL +27 11 621 6600 FAX +27 11 622 3321 CALL CENTRE 08610 SAICA (72422) EMAIL saica@saica.co.za
WWW.saica.org.za WWW.accountancysa.org.za