



LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA



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12 December 2023

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ADVISORY

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL UNAUTHORISED ACCESS OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Dear Data Subject,

This communication serves as a notice under the provisions of the Protection of Personal

Information Act, 2013 (POPIA) aimed at informing you of a recent incident involving unauthorised access to personal information that may potentially affect you.

Although we have reasonable grounds to believe that personal information processed by the LSSA may have been unlawfully accessed, we are unaware of any unlawful use of such personal information.

The LSSA stores sensitive data of candidate attorneys and practitioners who register for educational services and products via our Legal Education Division (LEAD). We confirm that the Information Regulator has been notified, as required, in terms of s 22(1)(a) of POPIA.

Overview of incident:

On 7 September 2023, an on-premise user account with administrative rights was compromised, and this account was used to disable administrative security features. The unauthorised user started moving laterally, which affected the servers.

Incident Response:

In addition, the LSSA implemented the following measures to address the security compromise.

In addition, new security measures were introduced with a real-time security operations centre on the MS Azure cloud environment.

Potential consequences:

The LSSA stores no biometric information.
Limited opportunity for hackers to use the data.

Potential measures for clients (data subject) to implement:

- Change passwords regularly (good practice).
- Where possible, activate multi-factor authentication.
- Monitor your financial statements and records.
- Monitor any credit applications.
- Regularly ensure your security software is updated.
- Beware of phishing, and do not click on suspicious links.
- Review your security.

[Click here to read full notice.](#)

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