

**In the matter of the General Data Protection Regulation**

DPC Complaint Reference: [REDACTED]

In the matter of a complaint, lodged by [REDACTED] with the Belgian Data Protection Authority pursuant to Article 77 of the General Data Protection Regulation, concerning [REDACTED]

**Record of Amicable Resolution of the complaint and its consequent withdrawal pursuant to Section 109(3) of the Data Protection Act, 2018**

**Further to the requirements of Internal EDPB Document 06/2021 on the practical implementation of amicable settlements (adopted on 18 November 2021)**

**RECORD OF AMICABLE RESOLUTION FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF INTERNAL EDPB DOCUMENT 06/2021 ON  
THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF AMICABLE  
SETTLEMENTS, ADOPTED 18 NOVEMBER 2021**

**Dated** the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022



Data Protection Commission  
21 Fitzwilliam Square South  
Dublin 2, Ireland

## **Background**

1. On 27 March 2019, [REDACTED] (“the **Data Subject**”) lodged a complaint pursuant to Article 77 GDPR with the Belgian Data Protection Authority (“the **Recipient SA**”) concerning [REDACTED] (“the **Respondent**”).
2. In circumstances where the Data Protection Commission (“the **DPC**”) was deemed to be the competent authority for the purpose of Article 56(1) GDPR, the Recipient SA transferred the complaint to the DPC on 23 April 2019.

## **The Complaint**

3. The details of the complaint were as follows:
  - a. The Data Subject emailed the Respondent on 28 September 2018 to request access to his/her personal data.
  - b. The Data Subject was not satisfied with the response from the Respondent.

## **Action taken by the DPC**

4. The DPC, pursuant to Section 109(4) of the Data Protection Act, 2018 (“the **2018 Act**”), is required, as a preliminary matter, to assess the likelihood of the parties to the complaint reaching, within a reasonable time, an amicable resolution of the subject-matter of the complaint. Where the DPC considers that there is a reasonable likelihood of such an amicable resolution being concluded between the parties, it is empowered, by Section 109(2) of the 2018 Act, to take such steps as it considers appropriate to arrange or facilitate such an amicable resolution.
5. Following a preliminary examination of the material referred to it by the Recipient SA, the DPC considered that there was a reasonable likelihood of the parties concerned reaching, within a reasonable time, an amicable resolution of the subject matter of the complaint. The DPC’s experience is that complaints of this nature are particularly suitable for amicable resolution in circumstances where there is an obvious solution to the dispute, if the respondent is willing to engage in the process. In this regard, the DPC had regard to:
  - a. The relationship between the Data Subject and Respondent being, in this case, an individual consumer and a service provider; and
  - b. The nature of the complaint in this case, an unsuccessful attempt by the Data Subject to exercise his/her data subject rights.
6. While not relevant to the assessment that the DPC is required to carry out pursuant to Section 109(4) of the 2018 Act, the DPC also had regard to Internal EDPB Document 06/2021 on the

practical implementation of amicable settlements, adopted on 18 November 2021 (“**Document 06/2021**”), and considered that:

- a. the possible conclusion of the complaint by way of amicable resolution would not hamper the ability of the supervisory authorities to maintain the high level of protection that the GDPR seeks to create; and that
- b. such a conclusion, in this case, would likely carry advantages for the Data Subject, whose rights under the GDPR would be vindicated swiftly, as well as for the controller, who would be provided the opportunity to bring its behaviour into compliance with the GDPR.

### **Amicable Resolution**

7. The DPC engaged with both the Data Subject (via the Recipient SA) and Respondent in relation to the subject-matter of the complaint. Further to that engagement, it was established that the Respondent had actioned the Data Subject’s original access request, but that the Data Subject was not satisfied with the Respondent’s lack of response to his/her follow up questions seeking information under Articles 15(1)(a)-(h) GDPR. In the circumstances, the Respondent agreed to take the following action:
  - a. The Respondent agreed to provide responses to the Data Subject’s follow up questions.
8. On 14 November 2019, the Data Subject was provided with the Respondent’s answers to their outstanding questions via the Recipient SA. However, on 27 March 2020 the DPC received correspondence from the Data Subject via the Recipient SA noting that they remained dissatisfied with the Respondent’s responses, as the Respondent had referred to information available in its Privacy Policy, whereas the Data Subject was seeking information in relation to himself/herself as an individual. The Data Subject provided additional comments which they sought a response from the Respondent on.
9. Following further engagement with the Respondent, the DPC forwarded the Respondent’s responses to the Data Subject’s additional comments on 5 February 2021 via the Recipient SA. The correspondence noted that the provision of responses by the Respondent to the Data Subject’s additional queries appeared to facilitate the resolution of the Data Subject’s complaint. The Data Subject was invited to provide any outstanding concerns which they may have within two months of the date of the letter, so that additional action could be taken if required. The DPC did not receive any further communication from the Data Subject and, accordingly, the complaint has been deemed to have been amicably resolved.
10. In circumstances where the subject-matter of the complaint has been amicably resolved, in full, the complaint, by virtue of Section 109(3) of the 2018 Act, is deemed to have been withdrawn by the Data Subject.

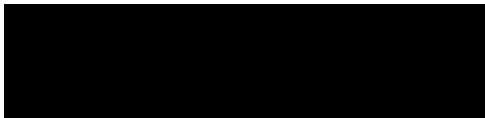
### **Confirmation of Outcome**

11. For the purpose of Document 06/2021, the DPC confirms that:

- a. The complaint, in its entirety, has been amicably resolved between the parties concerned;
- b. The agreed resolution is such that the object of the complaint no longer exists; and
- c. Having consulted with the supervisory authorities concerned on the information set out above, as required by Document 06/2021, the DPC has now closed off its file in this matter.

12. If dissatisfied with the outcome recorded herein, the parties have the right to an effective remedy by way of an application for judicial review, by the Irish High Court, of the process applied by the DPC in the context of the within complaint.

Signed for and on behalf of the DPC:

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**Sandra Skehan**  
**Deputy Commissioner**