# In the matter of the General Data Protection Regulation

DPC Complaint Reference:
IMI Reference:

In the matter of a complaint, lodged by with the Urząd Ochrony Danych Osobowych (Poland DPA) pursuant to Article 77 of the General Data Protection Regulation, concerning MTCH Technology Services Limited

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 EDPB Guidelines 06/2022 on the practical implementation of amicable settlements Version 2.0 (adopted on 12 May 2022)

# RECORD OF AMICABLE RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDPB GUIDELINES 06/2022 ON THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF AMICABLE SETTLEMENTS VERSION 2.0 (ADOPTED ON 12 MAY 2022)

Dated the 21st day of December 2023



Data Protection Commission 21 Fitzwilliam Square South Dublin 2, Ireland

# **Background**

- On 9 February 2023, ("the Data Subject") lodged a complaint pursuant to Article 77 of the GDPR with the Urząd Ochrony Danych Osobowych ("the Recipient SA") concerning MTCH Technology Services Limited ("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) of the GDPR, the Recipient SA transferred the complaint to the DPC on 27 February 2023.

# **The Complaint**

- 3. The details of the complaint were as follows:
  - a. The Data Subject emailed the Respondent on 8 February 2023 to note they were experiencing difficulty with deleting their account. The Respondent replied on the same day to advise that upon review, it appeared that the Data Subject had successfully deleted their account, confirming that there was no account associated with the email address the Data Subject used to contact the Respondent. The Data Subject responded by sharing the error message they received when deleting their account.
  - b. The Respondent replied to the Data Subject on 9 February 2023, to advise it could offer no further support.
  - c. As the Data Subject was not satisfied with the response received from the Respondent, they lodged a complaint with the Recipient SA.

# **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 their 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 EDPB Guidelines 06/2022 on the practical implementation of amicable settlements Version 2.0, adopted on 12 May 2022 ("Document 06/2022"), 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. Upon assessment of this complaint, the DPC noted in the Data Subject's request to the Recipient SA, they referred to more than one account on the Respondent's platform. As such, the DPC noted that it did not have documentation relating to the erasure requests of the additional accounts. On 13 April 2023, the DPC requested this information from the Data Subject via the Recipient SA. On 6 June 2023, the Recipient SA provided the DPC with the requested documentation.
- 8. The DPC engaged with both the Data Subject (via the Recipient SA) and Respondent in relation to the subject matter of the complaint. The DPC first contacted the Respondent on 6 July 2023. Further to that engagement, it was established that the Respondent only took action on the erasure request on the account that was associated with the email address the Data Subject communicated through, in order for the Respondent to be able to verify the Data Subject was the account owner. The Respondent confirmed to the DPC that three of the Data Subject's email addresses had been associated with closed accounts. The Respondent further advised that it had no record of an account associated with the remaining email address. The Respondent confirmed that it retained limited personal data in line with its retention policy and confirmed to the DPC the dates this remaining personal data would be deleted.
- 9. On 14 August 2023, the DPC's letter outlining the information provided by the Respondent as part of the amicable resolution process issued to the Recipient SA, for onward transmission to the Data Subject. When doing so, the DPC noted that the dispute between the Data Subject and Respondent appeared to have been resolved. In the circumstances, the DPC asked the Data Subject to notify it, within a stated timeframe, if they were not satisfied with the outcome, so that the DPC could take further action.

10. On 31 October 2023, the Recipient SA confirmed to the DPC, that no response had been received from the Data Subject.

11. On 7 November 2023, and in light of the foregoing, the DPC wrote to the Recipient SA noting  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

that the DPC considered the complaint to have been amicably resolved and withdrawn in accordance with section 109(3) of the Act and that it would conclude the case and inform the

Respondent.

12. 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** 

13. For the purpose of Document 06/2022, 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 06/2022 the DPC has now closed off its file in

this matter.

14. 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:

**Deputy Commissioner** 

**Data Protection Commission** 

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