

In the matter of the General Data Protection Regulation

DPC Complaint Reference: [REDACTED]

IMI Reference: [REDACTED]

In the matter of a complaint, lodged by [REDACTED] with the Urząd Ochrony Danych Osobowych (Poland DPA) pursuant to Article 77 of the General Data Protection Regulation, concerning Meta Platforms Ireland 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 5th day of April 2024



Data Protection Commission
21 Fitzwilliam Square South
Dublin 2, Ireland

Background

1. On 4 May 2021, [REDACTED] (“the **Data Subject**”) lodged a complaint pursuant to Article 77 of the GDPR with the Urząd Ochrony Danych Osobowych (“the **Recipient SA**”) concerning Meta Platforms Ireland 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 21 January 2022.

The Complaint

3. The details of the complaint were as follows:
 - a. The Data Subject first contacted the Respondent on 4 May 2021, raising requests for access and erasure, as per Articles 15 and 17 of the GDPR, for their personal data on the Facebook platform. As the Data Subject was not satisfied with the response received from the Respondent, they lodged a complaint with the Recipient SA.
 - b. Following further engagement between the Data Subject, the Respondent, the Recipient SA, and the DPC, it was established that the outstanding request forming the basis of the Data Subject’s complaint, was a request for the erasure of ten URLs from the Facebook platform, at which the Data Subject’s personal data had been published by a third-party user, without their consent. As it was unclear that the Data Subject had contacted the Respondent in relation to this matter, the DPC requested that the Data Subject put their request to the Respondent in the first instance.
 - c. The Data Subject wrote to the Respondent on 21 November 2022, raising their request for erasure of the ten URLs. The Respondent replied on 23 November 2022 indicating the Data Subject had directed their request via the incorrect channel.
 - d. As the Data Subject was not satisfied with the response received from the Respondent, they indicated they wished to pursue their 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. 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, and the provision of additional information by the Data Subject, the Respondent agreed to have their specialist team conduct a further review of the content. Following this review, the Respondent removed the content for violation of its terms and conditions.
8. On 13 October 2023, the DPC wrote to the Data Subject via the Recipient SA, seeking their views on the action taken by the Respondent. This correspondence requested that the Data Subject notify the DPC within a specified timeframe, if they were not satisfied with the action taken by the Respondent, so that the DPC could investigate the matter further. This letter issued to the Data Subject on 28 November 2023. In this correspondence, the DPC requested a reply, within a stated timeframe.
9. On 15 January 2024, the Recipient SA confirmed to the DPC, that no response had been received from the Data Subject.
10. On 15 February 2024, and in light of the foregoing, the DPC wrote to the Recipient SA noting 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.

11. 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

12. 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.

13. 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