

June 7, 2024

# **RE: Your personal information**

Dear :

We regret to inform you that Financial Northeastern Companies was the victim of an email phishing attack that included your personal information. We are writing to notify you of this incident as well as provide you with information on the actions that we have taken in response, resources available to you, and steps you can take to protect yourself.

# What Happened?

On January 30, 2024, Financial Northeastern was the victim of an email phishing attack involving one email account. The incident was discovered on February 21, 2024. Financial Northeastern conducted a forensic investigation and performed a manual review of the affected email account.

# What Information was Involved?

On May 17, 2024, we determined that your personal information may have been affected, including your name, address and Social Security number.

### What are We Doing to Assist?

While we have no indication that any of your personal information has been misused, we are taking precautionary measures to protect your financial security and help to alleviate any concerns you may have. That's why we are providing you with access to free credit monitoring for 24 months through Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup>.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for 24 months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is <u>immediately available to you</u>, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary 24-month membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you enroll by August 30, 2024 (Your code will not work after this date.)
- Visit the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: <a href="https://www.experianidworks.com/credit">https://www.experianidworks.com/credit</a>



Provide your activation code:

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at 1-877-890-9332 by August 30, 2024. Be prepared to provide engagement number B123952 as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.\*
- Credit Monitoring: Actively monitors Experian file for indicators of fraud.
- Identity Restoration: Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE<sup>TM</sup>: You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance\*\*: Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

### What Can You Do?

For additional information and steps that you can take to protect yourself from identity theft, see enclosure.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 973-396-1068.

Sincerely,

Steven Zage, President



# **Information about Identity Theft Protection**

### **Monitor Your Accounts**

We recommend that you regularly review statements from your accounts and periodically obtain your credit report from one or more of the national credit reporting companies. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com, by calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or by mailing an Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at www.annualcreditreport.com) to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281. You may also purchase a copy of your credit report by contacting one or more of the three national credit reporting agencies listed below.

 Equifax®
 Experian
 TransUnion®

 P.O. Box 740241
 P.O. Box 9701
 P.O. Box 1000

 Atlanta, GA 30374-0241
 Allen, TX 75013-9701
 Chester, PA 19016-1000

 1-800-685-1111
 1-888-397-3742
 1-800-888-4213

 www.equifax.com
 www.transunion.com

When you receive your credit reports, review them carefully. Look for accounts or creditor inquiries that you did not initiate or do not recognize. Look for information, such as home address and Social Security number that is not accurate. If you see anything you do not understand, call the credit reporting agency at the telephone number on the report.

### **Credit Freeze**

You have the right to put a security freeze, also known as a credit freeze, on your credit file, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a Personal Identification Number (PIN) that is issued to you when you initiate a freeze. A credit freeze is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a credit freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to access your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a credit freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. Should you wish to place a credit freeze, please contact all three major consumer reporting agencies listed below.

Equifax Experian TransUnion P.O. Box 105788 P.O. Box 9554 P.O. Box 2000 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 Allen, TX 75013-9554 Chester, PA 19016-2000 1-800-685-1111 1-888-397-3742 1-888-909-8872 www.equifax.com/personal/ www.transunion.com/ www.experian.com/ credit-report-services freeze/center.html credit-freeze

You must separately place a credit freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting agency. The following information should be included when requesting a credit freeze:

- 1. Full name, with middle initial and any suffixes;
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- 4. Current address and previous addresses for the past five (5) years;
- 5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6. Other personal information as required by the applicable credit reporting agency.



If you request a credit freeze online or by phone, then the credit reporting agencies have one (1) business day after receiving your request to place a credit freeze on your credit file report. If you request a lift of the credit freeze online or by phone, then the credit reporting agency must lift the freeze within one (1) hour. If you request a credit freeze or lift of a credit freeze by mail, then the credit agency must place or lift the credit freeze no later than three (3) business days after getting your request.

### **Fraud Alerts**

You also have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on your file at no cost. An initial fraud alert lasts 1-year and is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting 7 years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the agencies listed below. The agency you contact will then contact the other two credit agencies.

Equifax
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
1-888-766-0008
www.equifax.com/personal/
credit-report-services

Experian P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013-9554 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/ fraud/center.html TransUnion
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert

# **Additional Information**

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting your state Attorney General or the Federal Trade Commission. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should be reported to law enforcement, your Attorney General, and the FTC.

The Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338) TTY: 1-866-653-4261 www.ftc.gov/idtheft

For more information about identity theft and your tax records, we recommend that you visit the IRS Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft at http://www.irs.gov. You may want to consider notifying the IRS that your tax records may be at risk by completing IRS Form 14039 (Identity Theft Affidavit) which can be located at http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f14039.pdf. You will need to send Form 14039 to the IRS along with a copy of your valid government-issued identification, such as a Social Security card, driver's license, or passport to the address on the form or by faxing to 1-855-807-5720.

Detailed below are a few things to keep in mind when filing Internal Revenue Service Form 14039:

- All documents, including your identification, must be clear and legible;
- The identity theft marker will remain on your file for a minimum of three tax cycles;
- Any returns containing your Social Security number will be reviewed by the IRS for possible fraud; and,
- The marker may delay the processing of any legitimate tax returns.



You may also have the right to file or obtain a police report with your local law enforcement office if you believe you have been a victim of identity theft or fraud.

Remember to remain vigilant in reviewing your account statements, monitoring your free credit reports, and for incidents of fraud or identity theft.

Please note that you have the right to file or obtain a police report related to this incident.