

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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August 22, 2024

Mr. Salvatore Verini  
President  
Jerico Pictures, Inc.  
d/b/a National Public Data  
1440 Coral Ridge Drive  
Suite 236  
Coral Springs, FL 33071

Dear Mr. Verini:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating recent news reports about a possible cyberattack executed against National Public Data by a cybercriminal group identified as USDoD.<sup>1</sup> It is reported that the personal information of nearly 3 billion people were compromised, with the stolen data including information such as Social Security numbers, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses.<sup>2</sup> If true, this data breach likely represents one of the largest cyberattacks ever in terms of impacted individuals. The Committee requests a briefing to confirm the veracity of the attack, and if accurate, assess the potential impacts of the breach to the U.S. government, businesses, and the American people, as well as National Public Data's response to the attack.

The Committee is especially concerned by reports that the “trove of stolen data was put up for sale on the dark web by the cybercriminal group USDoD for \$3.5 million,”<sup>3</sup> possibly as early as April of this year. The National Public Data website acknowledges that there “appears to have been a data security incident...believed to have involved a third-party bad actor that was trying to hack into data in late December 2023, with potential leaks of certain data in April 2024 and summer 2024.”<sup>4</sup> Yet, National Public Data apparently failed to inform victims about these potential data breaches in a timely manner, leading to at least one lawsuit against your company by an alleged victim of the cyberattack claiming he was “alerted of the NPD breach thanks to a notification from his identity theft protection service on July 24.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Danni Santana and Courtney Johnston, *National Public Data cyber attack: massive data breach exposed countless Social Security numbers and personal info*, CNET MONEY (Aug. 21, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Security Incident Notification, National Public Data.

<sup>5</sup> *Supra*, n.1.

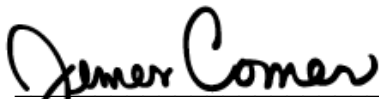
Given the seriousness of the matter, your company's website has yet to provide a substantive explanation about the self-described security incident. By some accounts, the scope of the attack may include individuals in Canada and the United Kingdom: an April 8, 2024 X post claims "2.9 billion records of US, Canada and UK citizens (a 4 terabytes database) exfiltrated from National Public Data being offered for sale by USDoD at \$3.5 million."<sup>6</sup>

National Public Data's lack of transparency about the cyberattack is staggering in light of the alleged compromised information and potential harm to so many victims. It isn't even clear whether the attack has impacted close to 3 billion *records* or *individuals*, as news reports have described it both ways. The Committee is investigating this matter to better understand the details surrounding the security incident, and its impacts. To assist our investigation, we request an initial briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 30, 2024. To the extent known and understood, we expect the briefing to describe the timing and nature of the breach, including the manner in which it occurred, a description of the data exfiltrated, and actions being undertaken by National Public Data in response to the breach.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Nancy Mace  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,  
Information Technology, and  
Government Innovation

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Gerald Connolly, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation

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<sup>6</sup> Kevin Townsend, *Unconfirmed hack of 2.9 billion records at National Public Data sparks media frenzy amid lawsuits*, SECURITYWEEK (Aug. 14, 2024).