



December 16, 2022

Notice of Data Breach

Dear Former Department of Finance Employee:

The Department of Finance recently experienced a cybersecurity incident in which data was unlawfully obtained from Finance's servers.

What Happened

The intrusion was proactively identified last week through coordination with state and federal security partners. Upon identification of this threat, digital security and online threat-hunting experts were rapidly deployed to assess the extent of the intrusion and to evaluate, contain and mitigate future vulnerabilities. The response effort includes multiple public and private agencies including the California Cybersecurity Integration Center.

Given the recent nature of the incident and the ongoing investigation, we are unable to share further information regarding the incident at this time. To mitigate additional impacts and protect the investigation, this communication should be kept confidential and not shared.

What Information Was Involved

The investigation is ongoing, so the extent of the intrusion and what department data may be affected is still unknown. There has been a threat to release data obtained.

The incident may have impacted personnel data for a small number of former department employees, including personally identifiable information like employee names, social security numbers, and employee ID numbers. It is also possible that sensitive information emailed to human resources by employees may be affected, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, bank account information if you submitted a direct deposit form to HR, or medical information if you emailed HR a Nonindustrial Disability Insurance (NDI) or Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) form.

The incident may have also involved usernames and e-mail addresses, as well as user passwords. If you use your Finance passwords, or something similar, for personal accounts, or saved those passwords in your Finance email account, please change those passwords immediately. Choose a unique, hard-to-guess password for each of your online accounts and always look for and report unusual activity in your accounts.

What We Are Doing

The department, along with multiple state and private partners, is currently working to investigate and recover from this incident. As we recover from this incident, we will review and revise our technology procedures and practices to minimize the risk of recurrence.

To protect your financial well-being, we are providing you with a free subscription to Equifax – ID Watchdog Services to keep you apprised of any unwanted attempts to use your private financial information and services to help you correct any issues that you might experience. The services provide you with access to a multi-bureau credit lock, subprime loan block, dark web monitoring, 3-bureau credit fraud alerts, 3-bureau credit monitoring, credit reports & scores, device protection & digital identity protection features, with up to \$2,000,000 identity theft reimbursement, up to \$1,000,000 stolen funds reimbursement for checking, savings, and 401k/HSA accounts, identity theft resolution services, 24/7/365 customer service center, and opt-in features such as financial and social account monitoring. These services will be available to you for up to one year from December 2022 through December 2023.

Please email creditmonitoring@dof.ca.gov to request the free subscription. Individualized instructions to access the service will then be provided to you as soon as possible thereafter.

Your account will be activated once you complete the activation process. The Equifax – ID Watchdog Services customer service center can be reached at 1-800-970-5182 or www.idwatchdog.com/home.

What You Can Do

Here are some additional things you can do proactively:

- Follow the recommended privacy protection steps outlined in the enclosed "Breach Help –Consumer Tips from the California Attorney General."
- Monitor your financial account statements and immediately report any suspicious or unusual activity to financial institutions.
- Request a free credit report at www.AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228. Consumers are entitled by law to one free credit report per year from each of the three major credit bureaus - Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion - for a total of three reports every year. Contact information for the credit bureaus can be found on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website, www.ftc.gov.
- You may place a fraud alert on your credit file to let creditors know to contact you before opening a new account in your name. Call TransUnion at 1-800-680-7289 or go to www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts to place this alert. TransUnion will then notify the other two credit bureaus on your behalf.
- Review resources provided on the FTC identity theft website, www.identitytheft.gov. The FTC maintains a variety of consumer publications providing comprehensive information on computer intrusions and identity theft.

For More Information

This is an ongoing incident. We will provide additional information as appropriate. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Larissa Stockton, Chief of Administrative Services at (916) 767-8372 or by email at: Larissa.Stockton@dof.ca.gov.

Thank you for attention to this important matter, and we sincerely regret any stress and inconvenience this incident has caused.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Stephenshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being more prominent.

JOE STEPHENSHAW

Director

Enclosure