

# Facebook sued for failure to protect users' data

*Instructed by journalist and writer, Peter Jukes, Hausfeld has filed a claim against Facebook in the High Court*

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM , February 9, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Instructed by journalist and writer, Peter Jukes, Hausfeld has filed a claim against Facebook in the High Court in respect of a loss of control over his personal data and the personal data of around a million other affected Facebook users in England and Wales.

The consumer representative action is brought on behalf of affected Facebook users who fell victim to Facebook's failure to protect their personal data between November 2013 and May 2015. In this period, Facebook allowed a third-party app called This is Your Digital Life to access not only the personal information of users who downloaded the app, but also the personal information of their Facebook friends. This was done entirely without their knowledge or consent and opened up that information to abuse by third parties such as Cambridge Analytica. The UK Information Commissioner's Office ("ICO") described it as "a very serious data incident".

Personal data harvested in this way included things like name, gender, location, tagged photographs and pages liked. As the ICO found, Facebook users' data was placed at serious risk of being used in connection with political campaigning.

## The claim

This representative action seeks damages from Facebook, on behalf of affected individuals in England and Wales, as a result of Facebook's failure to comply with its statutory duties under the Data Protection Act 1998. The claim is being brought against Facebook Inc. and Facebook Ireland Limited under Rule 19.6 of the Civil Procedure Rules, by which a representative claimant can bring a claim on behalf of a class of people with the same interest. Everyone with the same interest as the class representative is included in the claimant class unless they choose to opt-out. The dedicated claim website offers full details ([www.facebookdatabreachclaim.co.uk](http://www.facebookdatabreachclaim.co.uk)).

Peter Jukes explains why he is bringing the claim:

"Facebook profits from its billions of users, who reasonably rely on the platform to protect the personal information they entrust to it. Facebook exploited that trust by making users' private

data available to a third-party app, without their consent or even knowledge. This opened our personal data up to abuse. It is only right that we, as consumers, hold Facebook to account for failing to comply with the law and for putting our personal data at risk, and to ensure that this is not allowed to happen again.”

Michael Bywell, Partner at Hausfeld, said:

“Facebook breached its legal obligations to protect the data of its users. The law is clear that Facebook had a duty to safeguard users’ personal information – a duty that it neglected. With an experienced team, committed class representative and funding and ATE insurance in place, we believe this claim offers the best avenue of redress for consumers who suffered at the hands of Facebook’s failure to abide by data protection laws.”

The affected users on whose behalf the claim is brought will not pay any costs or fees to participate in the legal action and have no financial risk in relation to the claim, which is funded by Balance Legal Capital and has ATE (After the Event) insurance in place.

For additional information, such as details of the claims and eligibility or to register interest, please visit [www.facebookdatabreachclaim.co.uk](http://www.facebookdatabreachclaim.co.uk).

Media enquiries

DRD Partnership

Lawrence Dore on +44 (0) 7958 329309

Kate Miller on +44 (0) 7720 593428

Anna Bailey on +44 (0) 7903 884558

facebookdatabreach@drdpartnership.com

Notes to Editors

This is Your Digital Life app

According to the ICO, the This is Your Digital Life app was used by around 300,000 Facebook users worldwide and it has been estimated that the app collected personal data from up to 87 million users globally. Facebook itself estimates that at least one million UK users were affected.

On 25 October 2018, the ICO issued its maximum penalty of £500,000 to Facebook for serious breaches of data protection law. In a statement, the Information Commissioner, Elizabeth Denham, said: “Facebook failed to sufficiently protect the privacy of its users before, during and after the unlawful processing of this data. A company of its size and expertise should have known better and it should have done better”. In respect of the scale of the penalty, she noted: “We considered these contraventions to be so serious we imposed the maximum penalty under the previous legislation. The fine would inevitably have been significantly higher under the GDPR.

One of our main motivations for taking enforcement action is to drive meaningful change in how organisations handle people’s personal data.”

#### About Peter Jukes

Peter Jukes, a prominent journalist and writer, is the representative claimant in the action. He previously worked as a reporter for Newsweek/Daily Beast and has written investigative reports for the Guardian, Independent, Observer, New York Times, Politico, Prospect Magazine and others. Press Gazette awarded him best reporter on social media for his live coverage of the phone hacking trial. Peter helped Cambridge Analytica whistle-blowers come forward in 2017 and 18, to shed light on the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

#### About Hausfeld

Hausfeld & Co LLP is a leading international law firm, specialising in claimant litigation. The firm possesses significant experience in all aspects of collective redress and group claims, including data breach litigation against global “Big Tech” companies. It has acted on some of the most complex damages claims of the last decade: on the ‘Interchange Fee’ litigation against Visa/Mastercard, in ‘Google Shopping’ on behalf of price comparison websites against Google; against 6 financial institutions over their participation in unlawful price-fixing of the FX currency markets; against Marriott International and YouTube in data breach litigation.

#### About Balance Legal Capital

Balance Legal Capital LLP is a litigation fund manager based out of London. It provides funding for commercial disputes and group actions, focussing on litigation in the UK and Australia, and arbitration worldwide. Its team is led by experienced litigators, formerly of leading law firms. Balance is a member of the Association of Litigation Funders in the UK, and is authorised and regulated by the FCA.

DRD Partnership

DRD Partnership

facebookdatabreach@drdpartnership.com

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/535339871>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2021 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.