REPORT OF BREACH IDENTIFIED BY MI5

MI5 reference: [Error Reference FF]

Nature of breach: Failure to adhere to safeguards

Class of breach:

Responsible Agency: MI5

Breach start date: April 2016

Date referred to:

Date confirmed as breach: 24 May 2022

Business area:

Relevant authorisations:

1. We are writing to inform you of a breach of safeguards identified by MI5. [Authorised material] found to have been retained after there were no longer any relevant grounds to retain the information. This constitutes a breach of the safeguards.

2. On 14 February 2022, [authorised material] found to have been retained in the [T]E. [The redacted text details the context and timeline, relating to the error].
3. The current MI5 policy to retain authorised material for a maximum period from the acquisition of this data. On the expiry of period, any such material should be deleted unless there is a necessary and proportionality case for retaining it for a longer period. In any case, it was not necessary and proportionate to retain this authorised material.

4. As part of our work to remediate legal compliance risks and issues in the TE, MI5 has carried out a number of strands of activity intended to reduce the risk of material being held within the TE for longer than is necessary and proportionate. The redacted text provides further detail of the remediation work.

5. We therefore assess that this case may be symptomatic of a more systemic issue, that there is likely to be further warranted or authorised material that has been stored in the TE for longer than is necessary and proportionate, and that the failure to enforce the necessary safeguards is likely to have resulted in the occurrence of further breaches.

6. The redacted text explains a team has opened a formal investigation into the issues, with the aim of better understanding the causes of this issue and agreeing a mitigation plan.

7. The authorised material in the case set out above is held in the TE and pre-dates April 2019. As such, this material may be subject to the IPT Preservation Order, which requires that warranted material is continue to be retained as required to comply with that Order. We therefore propose to quarantine all of the relevant material which pre-dates April 2019 until such time as the Order is no longer in effect.

8. Please send any correspondence relating to this error to a shared mailbox.

Kind regards,