Blackbaud Data Incident

The University of London, where BAILII is hosted, provides fundraising services to BAILII. On 16 July the University was contacted by a third-party service provider, Blackbaud, one of the world's largest providers of database management systems for not-for-profit organisations and the Higher Education sector.

Blackbaud informed the University that they had been the victim of a ransomware attack in May 2020. A copy of a subset of data from a number of their clients was removed before the attack was blocked. It involves UK and US healthcare, educational and not-for-profit organisations, as well as University of London. The University of London uses the system to record engagement in relation to fundraising activities.

The University, having undertaken a review of the information shared by Blackbaud mapped against its data, informed BAILII that the data breach included some information relating to BAILII contacts. The file which was copied did not contain any credit card or bank card information. The attack did not gain access to bank account information, usernames, or passwords because they were encrypted. No data was lost or corrupted as a result of this incident. However, data regarding contact with BAILII donors and invitees / attendees at the BAILII annual lecture were copied.

BAILII understands that the risk attached to this incident is low, based on the steps taken by the University and its contracted supplier. The University of London has a statement here and Blackbaud has included further details about the incident here.

The University has contacted directly all those about whom data is held and provided a central point of contact for further enquiry at blackbaud_incident@london.ac.uk Responses to enquiries from BAILII contacts are being coordinated by the fundraising officer for BAILII.

Our supporters are very important to us. Once we were made aware of the data breach, we have been in close contact with the University of London who are investigating the incident and have reported it to the Information Commissioner's Office.

30 July 2020