



30 June 2023

CYBER-INCIDENT INVOLVING THIRD PARTY LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDER HWL EBSWORTH

The Insurance Commission of Western Australia advises of an incident involving a third-party independent legal services provider and just over 300 motor injury insurance claims, which is being investigated.

On 1 May 2023, national legal firm HWL Ebsworth (HWLE), which provides legal services to the Insurance Commission, reported a cyber-incident involving ransomware and claims of data theft and publication to the dark web.

The Insurance Commission was subsequently advised that data held by HWLE had been compromised as part of the cyber-attack. The details of the data that has been accessed are not yet known and these are part of a live investigation the Insurance Commission is actively supporting.

As HWLE is engaged by federal and state governments across Australia, the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs is leading the response to this incident, and the Western Australian Government is participating as part of a cross jurisdictional working group established by the Department of Home Affairs.

HWLE's role includes providing advice, negotiating, and defending actions through litigation on insurance claims. HWLE is continuing its data review process to identify and provide clients, including the Insurance Commission, with details of the exfiltrated data.

Insurance Commission Chief Executive Officer Rod Whithear said the incident was concerning and the Insurance Commission would continue to work with all parties to investigate the extent of the incident.

"A NSW Court Order currently prohibits access to the leaked HWLE data, he said.

"We understand a consent regime is being implemented that will allow the Insurance Commission to assess the data that may have been exfiltrated.

"We're committed to supporting any claimants who may be impacted by this incident."

The Insurance Commission, and its predecessor organisations, has been operating in WA since 1926 and provides personal injury insurance to WA motorists and self-insurance arrangements to the WA Government.

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