

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

## SEP 19 2017

Gaithersburg, MD

:

## Re: FOIA-2017-01278 Herbalife (Victim List)

Dear

This is in response to your request dated August 09, 2017, under the Freedom of Information Act seeking access to a list of victims in the Herbalife Settlement. In accordance with the FOIA and agency policy, we have searched our records as of August 9, 2017, the date we received your request in our FOIA office.

The Commission's fee regulations specify that fees less than \$25 will be waived. See 16 C.F.R. § 4.8(b)(4). Because the fees associated with the processing of your request did not exceed \$25, we have processed your request free of charge.

We have located 11,557 pages of responsive records. I am granting partial access to the accessible records. Portions of these pages fall within one or more of the exemptions to the FOIA's disclosure requirements, as explained below. The redactions are marked with only one exemption, but all of the following exemptions apply to the redacted information.

We are withholding some of the information under FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), because they are exempt from disclosure by another statute; specifically, Section 21(f) of the FTC Act provides that information obtained by the Commission in a law enforcement investigation, whether through compulsory process, or voluntarily in lieu of such process, is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA. 15 U.S.C. § 57b-2(f), *see Kathleen McDermott v. FTC*, 1981-1 Trade Cas. (CCH) ¶ 63964 (D.D.C. April 13, 1981).

I am denying access to consumers' names and addresses and any other identifying information found in the complaints. This information is exempt from release under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), because individuals' right to privacy outweighs the general public's interest in seeing personal identifying information. *See The Lakin Law Firm v. FTC*, 352 F.3d 1122 (7th Cir. 2003). This information was also compiled for law enforcement purposes which makes it exempt for release under FOIA Exemption 7(C), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), because individuals' right to privacy outweighs the general public's interest in seeing personal identifying information.

Some information is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 7(E), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E). Exemption 7(E) protects information that would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for

law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law. See Foster v. DOJ, 933 F. Supp. 687(E.D. Mich. 1996).

If you are not satisfied with this response to your request, you may appeal by writing to Freedom of Information Act Appeal, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, within 90 days of the date of this letter. Please enclose a copy of your original request and a copy of this response.

You also may seek dispute resolution services from the FTC FOIA Public Liaison Richard Gold via telephone at 202-326-3355 or via e-mail at <u>rgold@ftc.gov</u>; or from the Office of Government Information Services via email at <u>ogis@nara.gov</u>, via fax at 202-741-5769, or via mail at Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740.

If you have any questions about the way we handled your request or about the FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact Brian Welke at 202-326-2897.

Sincerely. 400 Dione J. Stearns

Assistant General Counsel