

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

via e-mail: 21734-44856504@requests.muckrock.com

OCT 1.5 2015

Vekonda Luangaphay MuckRock DEPT MR21734, PO Box 55819 Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re:

FOIA-2016-00052 Online Dating Sites

Dear Ms. Luangaphay:

This is in response to your request dated October 08, 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act seeking access to FTC complaints made in 2015 against the following websites: (1) SeekingArrangement.com; (2) Match.com; (3) PlentyOfFish; (4) OkCupid; (5) eHarmony; (6) ChristianMingle; (7) Tinder; (8) DateHookup; (9) BlackPeopleMeet; (10) SeniorPeopleMeet; (11) Zoosk; and (12) Lovestruck. We have interpreted your request as pertaining to only consumer complaints. In accordance with the FOIA and agency policy, we have searched our records as of October 08, 2015, the date we received your request in our FOIA office.

Your request did not indicate an agreement to pay any fees associated with the processing of your request. However, 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. In the future, please provide a fee agreement to facilitate the processing of your request. We have also declined to make a determination regarding your fee waiver request due to mootness, since you are not being charged any fees for this request.

We have located 268 responsive complaints that consumers have made to the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"). You should know that the enclosed complaints have not necessarily been verified by the FTC. Therefore, you should make your own judgment about relying on the information provided. 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).

We are withholding eight complaints 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 the FTC may not disclose any material reflecting a consumer complaint obtained from a foreign source if that foreign source has requested confidential treatment. 15 U.S.C.§ 57b-2(f).

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 30 days of the date of this letter. Please enclose a copy of your original request and a copy of this response. If you believe that we should choose to disclose additional materials beyond what the FOIA requires, please explain why this would be in the public interest.

If you have any questions about the way we handled your request or about the FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact Carolyn Cheung at 202-326-2411.

Sincerely,

Dione J. Stearns

Assistant General Counsel