

Dear Member

On July 1, the BCA and BCRA became aware that some personal data was exposed to the public via the internet. This was investigated immediately and rectified within the hour. It is likely that the data was visible for some weeks, possibly from the beginning of May. We are writing to you because some of your personal information was included in this data. We do not believe this will have serious consequences but we want to make you aware of it.

The exposed data is from a summary of membership payments made via Paypal for BCA's DIM members since 2020. It includes only name, email address, postal address, a Paypal identifier and the amount paid. It does not include any passwords, card numbers, dates of birth or other sensitive information.

The BCA is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and we have taken informal advice from them about how we should manage the incident. Based on the information we gave them, which is the same as we're providing to you in this email, they agreed that it's not serious enough to require us to formally report it to them. We are, however, keeping a detailed record of how it occurred, what we've done and the steps we're taking to avoid anything similar happening in future.

The data was exposed as the result of an accident and not by malicious action. If it had been the result of a malicious attack, it would be likely to be in the hands of criminals with an intent to misuse it. This would only be the case here if they had happened to carry out a search, using Google or a similar search engine, for some of the information. We believe this is unlikely.

If, however, your data has come into the hands of a malicious person, they might deduce that you had a connection to the BCA or BCRA and attempt to 'phish' for more of your information.

Therefore, please be aware of the possibility of phishing emails purporting to come from the BCA or BCRA, perhaps referring to a membership payment and asking for personal details such as a bank account number or password. Neither the BCA nor BCRA will do this.

We are, however, moving to a new membership system managed on our behalf by JustGo. You can verify that this message is genuinely from BCA by checking for a similar message on our website at <https://british-caving.org.uk/data-breach-dims/>

Phishing emails are particularly dangerous on phones where it is not always possible to see the true address of a web site you are being asked to visit. You always need to be vigilant and aware of possible phishing attacks. For more information on phishing see the UK National Cyber Security Centre's website <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/spot-scams>

BCA and BCRA sincerely apologise for any trouble caused. If you have any concerns or questions please contact the BCRA or BCA at [secretary@bcra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bcra.org.uk) or [dataprotection@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:dataprotection@british-caving.org.uk).

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Acting Data Protection Officer