



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

Division of Privacy and Identity Protection  
Bureau of Consumer Protection

August 31, 2016

**Via Federal Express**

The Electronic Privacy Information Center  
Marc Rotenberg, Executive Director  
1718 Connecticut Ave, N.W.  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20009

The Center for Digital Democracy  
Jeff Chester, Executive Director  
1621 Connecticut Ave, N.W.  
Suite 550  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Rotenberg and Mr. Chester:

I am writing to acknowledge your recent complaint to the Federal Trade Commission regarding the proposed transfer of certain WhatsApp user data to Facebook. Thank you for raising this issue with us.

As you know, the FTC enforces Section 5 of the FTC Act, which prohibits companies from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce, and an Order requiring Facebook to comply with certain injunctive provisions. Your complaint contains allegations regarding the data collection, use, combination, and sharing practices of WhatsApp user data, such as mobile phone number and other account information, with Facebook. Your complaint also contains allegations regarding statements WhatsApp has made about how it limits the use of mobile phone number or other personally identifiable information as well as its sharing information with Facebook. Commission staff will carefully review your complaint.

Please be advised that any Commission investigation is non-public until the Commission decides to issue a formal complaint or close the investigation. As a result, we can neither confirm nor deny that we are conducting an investigation of the issues raised by your complaint. If you have any additional information you wish to provide about this matter, please contact me at (202) 326-2463 or via e-mail at [jho@ftc.gov](mailto:jho@ftc.gov).

Sincerely,

Jah-Juin "Jared" Ho  
Division of Privacy and Identity Protection