

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

JUN 0 6 2017

Michael Ritinski Foxhaven Asset Management 410 E Water Street, Suite 888 Charlottesville, VA 22902

> Re: FOIA-2017-00838 Amazon

Dear Mr. Ritinski:

This is in response to your request dated April 24, 2017, under the Freedom of Information Act seeking access to recent consumer complaints concerning Amazon, for the two week period as of the date of your request. In accordance with the FOIA and agency policy, we have searched our records, as of April 24, 2017, the date we received your request in our FOIA office.

We have located approximately 223 responsive complaints. I am granting partial access to, and am enclosing copies of, the accessible records. These complaints, and portions of other complaints, are subject to two of the nine exemptions to the FOIA's disclosure requirements, as explained below.

We are withholding one complaint 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).

Enclosed are approximately 222 responsive complaints that consumers have sent 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).

In addition, some responsive records constitute confidential commercial or financial information, which is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). *See Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871, 879 (D.C. Cir. 1992). Moreover, because Section 6(f) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 46(f), prohibits public disclosure of this type of information, it is also exempt under FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), which exempts from disclosure any information that is protected from disclosure under another federal statute.

Additional consumer complaint information concerning Amazon is posted to the FTC's website at <u>https://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/foia/foia-reading-rooms/frequently-requested-records</u>.

Based on the fee provisions of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A), and the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 CFR § 4.8 et seq., as amended, I am also enclosing an invoice for the charges we incurred for this response to your request.

Please make checks payable to U.S. Treasury and send payment to:

Financial Management Office, H-790 Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580

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 e-mail 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 our FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact Jacqueline Lightle at 202-326-3737.

Sincerely,

Anna Murray

Attorney