☐ File No.: EXP202105918

## RESOLUTION OF SANCTIONING PROCEDURE

Of the procedure instructed by the Spanish Agency for Data Protection and based on

to the following

**BACKGROUND** 

FIRST: D.A.A.A. (hereinafter, the claiming party), on November 8,

2021, filed a claim with the Spanish Agency for Data Protection. The claim is directed against D. B.B.B. with NIF \*\*\*NIF.1 (hereinafter, the part

claimed). The reasons on which the claim is based are the following:

The complaining party denounces the receipt of an advertising email,

dated October 21, 2021, sent by the claimed party to multiple recipients without

use the blind carbon copy functionality.

Along with the claim, provide a copy of said email and its headers, as well as

as a copy of the email sent by the complaining party, in which it requests the

the claimed party to stop receiving further emails.

SECOND: In accordance with article 65.4 of Organic Law 3/2018, of 5

December, Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights

(hereinafter LOPDGDD), said claim was transferred to the claimed party,

to proceed with its analysis and inform this Agency within a month,

of the actions carried out to adapt to the requirements established in the

data protection regulations.

The transfer, which was carried out in accordance with the regulations established in Law 39/2015, of

October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of the Administrations

Public (hereinafter, LPACAP), by means of electronic notification, was received in

dated January 11, 2022, as stated in the acknowledgment of receipt that is in the

proceedings. No response has been received to this letter of transfer. THIRD: On February 8, 2022, in accordance with article 65 of the LOPDGDD, the admission for processing of the claim presented by the complaining party. FOURTH: The General Subdirectorate of Data Inspection proceeded to carry out of previous investigative actions to clarify the facts in matter, by virtue of the functions assigned to the control authorities in the article 57.1 and the powers granted in article 58.1 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter GDPR), and in accordance with the provisions of Title VII, Chapter I, Second Section, of the LOPDGDD, having knowledge of the following extremes: C / Jorge Juan, 6 28001 - Madrid www.aepd.es sedeagpd.gob.es 2/12 Date on which the claimed events took place: October 21, 2021. Relevant documentation provided by the claimant: □ Copy of the email received in the email account \*\*\*EMAIL.1 in which the email address appears as the sender \*\*\*EMAIL.2 and the date October 21, 2021. □ Internet headers of said email. □ Copy of the email sent from the email address

\*\*\*EMAIL.1 to the email address \*\*\*EMAIL.2, on the 20th day of

October 2021, requesting not to receive further emails.

The claimant provides an email and its headers, in which it appears as shipping date on October 21, 2021, as sender the email address email \*\*\*EMAIL.2 and as recipients, a distribution list of approximately 160 email addresses, including the

The content of the email refers to information about the availability of space

Attached to the bottom of the email is the link to the web page \*\*\*URL.1 and the telephone number of information \*\*\*PHONE.1.

From the content of the email it can be deduced that the defendant's activity is restoration.

Likewise, provide a copy of an email, dated October 20

for groups, for lunches, company dinners and Christmas.

claimant's address \*\*\*EMAIL.1.

of 2021, in which \*\*\*EMAIL.1 appears as the sender and as the recipient

\*\*\*EMAIL.2, communicating that you do not wish to receive more notifications. In the mail it consists as foot signature the name "A.A.A.".

On March 30 and May 9, 2022, it has been required by the Inspection of

Data to the claimant, by postal mail, so that, within ten days,

provide information and documentation in relation to the facts denounced.

The first requirement was returned by the Postal Service for "absent delivery" and

The second requirement was delivered to its addressee on May 20,

2022, as stated in the acknowledgment of receipt, without until the date of this report response has been received.

It has been verified by the Data Inspection that in the section "Identifying data" of the "legal notice" of the web page \*\*\*URL.1 contains the following text:

FIFTH: On August 8, 2022, the Director of the Spanish Agency for

(...)

Data Protection agreed to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the claimed party,

in accordance with the provisions of articles 63 and 64 of Law 39/2015, of October 1,

of the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations (in

hereinafter, LPACAP), for the alleged infringement of article 5.1.f) of the GDPR and article

32 of the GDPR, typified in articles 83.5 and 83.4 of the GDPR, respectively

The initiation agreement was notified, in accordance with the regulations established in the Law

39/2015, of October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of the

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Public Administrations (hereinafter, LPACAP), on August 22, 2022,

as stated in the certificate that is in the file.

SIXTH: Notified the aforementioned start agreement in accordance with the rules established in

Law 39/2015, of October 1, on the Common Administrative Procedure of

Public Administrations (hereinafter, LPACAP), the claimed party submitted a written

of allegations in which, in summary, he stated that email without a copy

hidden was sent in error and it would be taken into account to avoid repeating

similar events in the future.

SEVENTH: On November 4, 2022, a resolution proposal was formulated,

proposing:

<<That the Director of the Spanish Data Protection Agency sanctions

B.B.B., with NIF \*\*\*NIF.1,

-for an infringement of article 5.1.f) of the GDPR, classified in accordance with the provisions of

Article 83.5 of the GDPR, classified as very serious for the purposes of prescription in the

Article 72.1 a) of the LOPDGDD, with a fine of €1,000.

- for a violation of article 32 of the GDPR, classified in accordance with the provisions of article article 83.4 of the GDPR, classified as serious for the purposes of prescription in article 73 f) of the LOPDGDD, with a fine of €500.>>

The aforementioned resolution proposal was sent, in accordance with the rules established in Law 39/2015, of October 1, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations (hereinafter, LPACAP), by means of electronic notification, being received on November 4, 2022, as stated in the certificate that work on file.

## **EIGHTH**

## Resolution.

: The defendant party has not submitted allegations to the Proposal for In view of all the proceedings, by the Spanish Agency for Data Protection In this proceeding, the following are considered proven facts:

## **PROVEN FACTS**

FIRST: On November 8, 2021, the claimant filed a writ of claim before the Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD), in which expressed their disagreement with the receipt of an advertising email sent by the claimed party, to multiple recipients, without using the functionality blind copying, making public the personal email addresses of all recipients.

SECOND: Once the documentation provided has been verified and that it is incorporated to the file, it is clear that on October 21, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., from the email address: \*\*\*EMAIL.2, an email was sent to 160 desrecipients approximately, without blind copies, making public the addresses of personal emails of all recipients.

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THIRD: The claimed party acknowledges that the incident that is the subject of the claim was due to human error and states that it will be taken into account to avoid repetition of similar events in the future.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF LAW** 

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In accordance with the powers that article 58.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter GDPR), grants each control authority and as established in articles 47, 48.1, 64.2 and 68.1 of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights (hereinafter, LOPDGDD), is competent to initiate and resolve this procedure the Director of the Spanish Protection Agency of data.

Likewise, article 63.2 of the LOPDGDD determines that: "The procedures processed by the Spanish Data Protection Agency will be governed by the provisions in Regulation (EU) 2016/679, in this organic law, by the provisions regulations dictated in its development and, insofar as they do not contradict them, with character subsidiary, by the general rules on administrative procedures."

In response to the allegations presented by the respondent entity, it should be noted the next:

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Security measures must be adopted in attention to each and every one of the

risks present in the processing of personal data, including among the same, the human factor.

The facts proven in the procedure show the disclosure of the addresses of email when an email without a copy is sent to the claimant hidden with breach of technical and organizational measures and violating the data confidentiality.

Consequently, the allegations must be dismissed, meaning that the arguments presented do not distort the essential content of the offense that is declared committed nor does it imply sufficient justification or exculpation.

П

previous questions

In the present case, in accordance with the provisions of article 4.1 of the GDPR, there is

the processing of personal data, since B.B.B., as owner

of the web domain \*\*\*URL.1 and the email address \*\*\*EMAIL.2, performs

processing of personal data for the development of its activity.

It carries out this activity in its capacity as data controller, since it is

who determines the purposes and means of such activity, by virtue of article 4.7 of the GDPR:

"responsible for the treatment" or "responsible": the natural or legal person, authority

public authority, service or other body that, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and

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means of treatment; if the law of the Union or of the Member States determines

determines the purposes and means of the treatment, the person in charge of the treatment or the criteria

Specific reasons for their appointment may be established by the Law of the Union or of the Member states.

Article 4 section 12 of the RGPD defines, in a broad way, the "violations of security" security of personal data" (hereinafter security breach) as "all those security violations that cause the destruction, loss or alteration

Accidental or illegal transfer of personal data transmitted, stored or processed in otherwise, or unauthorized communication or access to such data."

In the present case, there is evidence of a personal data security breach in the circumstances circumstances indicated above, categorized as a breach of confidentiality, all time from the email address: \*\*\*EMAIL.2, a message has been sent email to approximately 160 recipients, without blind carbon copies, making public the personal email addresses of all recipients.

According to GT29, a "Breach of confidentiality" occurs when there is an unauthorized or accidental disclosure of personal data, or access to it themselves.

It should be noted that the identification of a security breach does not imply the impossibility sanction directly by this Agency, since it is necessary to analyze the diligence of managers and managers and security measures applied.

Within the principles of treatment provided for in article 5 of the GDPR, the integrity and confidentiality of personal data is guaranteed in section 1.f) of article 5 of the GDPR. For its part, the security of personal data comes regulated in article 32 of the GDPR.

IV.

Article 5.1.f) of the GDPR

Article 5.1.f) of the GDPR establishes the following:

"Article 5 Principles relating to treatment:

1. Personal data will be:

(...)

f) processed in such a way as to guarantee adequate data security

personal data, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful processing and against

its loss, destruction or accidental damage, through the application of technical measures

or organizational procedures ("integrity and confidentiality")."

In relation to this principle, Recital 39 of the aforementioned GDPR states that:

"[...]Personal data must be processed in a way that guarantees security and appropriate confidentiality of personal data, including to prevent access or unauthorized use of said data and of the equipment used in the treatment".

The documentation in the file offers clear indications that the claimed violated article 5.1 f) of the GDPR, principles relating to treatment.

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In the present case, according to documentation provided by the claimant and in the absence of response of the claimed party, it can be verified that, from the direction of email: \*\*\*EMAIL.2, an email has been sent to 160 recipients rivers approximately, without blind carbon copies, making the email addresses public personal data of all recipients.

The sending of an email to a plurality of recipients without hiding the each of them the email addresses of the rest of the recipients to whom that the shipment was also addressed, could constitute, on the part of the defendant, in his condition of responsible for the aforementioned processing of personal data, a

violation of the principle of confidentiality, by disseminating this information among the recipients of the shipment without stating that he had obtained the consent of the themselves for that specific treatment.

Consequently, it is considered that the accredited facts are constitutive of infringement, attributable to the claimed party, due to violation of article 5.1.f) of the GDPR.

Classification of the infringement of article 5.1.f) of the GDPR

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The aforementioned infringement of article 5.1.f) of the GDPR supposes the commission of the infringements typified in article 83.5 of the GDPR that under the heading "General conditions for the imposition of administrative fines" provides:

Violations of the following provisions will be sanctioned, in accordance with the paragraph 2, with administrative fines of maximum EUR 20,000,000 or, in the case of a company, an amount equivalent to a maximum of 4% of the total annual global business volume of the previous financial year, opting for the highest amount:

the basic principles for the treatment, including the conditions for the

to)

consent under articles 5, 6, 7 and 9; (...)"

In this regard, the LOPDGDD, in its article 71 "Infractions" establishes that  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$ 

"The acts and behaviors referred to in sections 4,

5 and 6 of article 83 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, as well as those that result contrary to this organic law".

For the purposes of the limitation period, article 72 "Infractions considered very serious" of the LOPDGDD indicates:

"1. Based on what is established in article 83.5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679,

are considered very serious and will prescribe after three years the infractions that a substantial violation of the articles mentioned therein and, in particular, the following:

a) The processing of personal data in violation of the principles and guarantees established in article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. (...)"

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SAW

**GDPR Article 32** 

Article 32 of the GDPR, security of treatment, establishes the following:

- "1. Taking into account the state of the art, the application costs, and the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing, as well as risks of variable probability and severity for the rights and freedoms of individuals physical, the person in charge and the person in charge of the treatment will apply technical and appropriate organizational measures to guarantee a level of security appropriate to the risk, which may include, among others:
- a) the pseudonymization and encryption of personal data;
- b) the ability to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, availability and permanent resilience of treatment systems and services;
- c) the ability to restore availability and access to data quickly in the event of a physical or technical incident;
- d) a process of regular verification, evaluation and assessment of effectiveness technical and organizational measures to guarantee the safety of the

treatment.

- 2. When evaluating the adequacy of the security level, particular consideration will be given to take into account the risks presented by data processing, in particular as consequence of the destruction, loss or accidental or illegal alteration of data personal information transmitted, preserved or processed in another way, or the communication or unauthorized access to such data.
- 3. Adherence to an approved code of conduct pursuant to article 40 or to a certification mechanism approved under article 42 may serve as an element to demonstrate compliance with the requirements established in section 1 of the present article.
- 4. The controller and the processor shall take measures to ensure that any person acting under the authority of the controller or processor and have access to personal data can only process such data by following instructions of the person in charge, unless it is obliged to do so by virtue of the Law of the Union or of the Member States.

From the documentation in the file, there are clear indications that the claimed has violated article 32 of the GDPR, when a security incident occurred when sending an email to a large number of recipients, without the functionality blind copying, without having the appropriate technical and organizational measures.

It should be noted that the GDPR in the aforementioned precept does not establish a list of the security measures that are applicable according to the data that is the object

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of treatment, but it establishes that the person in charge and the person in charge of the treatment apply technical and organizational measures that are appropriate to the risk involved the treatment, taking into account the state of the art, the application costs, the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing, probability risks and seriousness for the rights and freedoms of the persons concerned.

In addition, security measures must be adequate and proportionate to the detected risk, noting that the determination of the technical measures and organizational procedures must be carried out taking into account: pseudonymization and encryption, the ability to ensure confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience, the ability to restore availability and access to data after an incident, process verification (not audit), evaluation and assessment of the effectiveness of the measures.

In any case, when evaluating the adequacy of the security level,

particular account of the risks presented by data processing, such as

consequence of the destruction, loss or accidental or illegal alteration of data

personal information transmitted, preserved or processed in another way, or the communication or

unauthorized access to said data and that could cause damages

physical, material or immaterial.

In this sense, recital 83 of the GDPR states that:

"(83) In order to maintain security and prevent processing from infringing what provided in this Regulation, the person in charge or in charge must evaluate the risks inherent to the treatment and apply measures to mitigate them, such as the encryption. These measures must ensure an adequate level of security, including the confidentiality, taking into account the state of the art and the cost of its application regarding the risks and nature of the personal data to be protect yourself. When assessing risk in relation to data security, considerations should be

take into account the risks arising from the processing of personal data, such as the destruction, loss or accidental or unlawful alteration of personal data transmitted, stored or processed in another way, or communication or access not authorized to said data, susceptible in particular to cause damages physical, material or immaterial.

The responsibility of the defendant is determined by the lack of measures of security, since it is responsible for making decisions aimed at implementing effectively the appropriate technical and organizational measures to guarantee a level of security appropriate to the risk to ensure the confidentiality of the data, restoring their availability and preventing access to them in the event of an incident physical or technical However, from the documentation provided it appears that the entity has not only breached this obligation, but also the adoption of measures in this regard, despite having notified him of the claim presented.

Therefore, the accredited facts constitute an infraction, attributable to the claimed party, for violation of article 32 GDPR.

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Classification of the infringement of article 32 of the GDPR

The aforementioned infringement of article 32 of the GDPR supposes the commission of the infringements typified in article 83.4 of the GDPR that under the heading "General conditions for the imposition of administrative fines" provides:

Violations of the following provisions will be sanctioned, in accordance with the paragraph 2, with administrative fines of maximum EUR 10,000,000 or, in the case of a company, an amount equivalent to a maximum of 2% of the total annual global business volume of the previous financial year, opting for the highest amount:

to)

the obligations of the controller and the person in charge under articles 8,

11, 25 to 39, 42 and 43; (...)"

In this regard, the LOPDGDD, in its article 71 "Infractions" establishes that 
"The acts and behaviors referred to in sections 4,

5 and 6 of article 83 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, as well as those that result contrary to this organic law".

For the purposes of the limitation period, article 73 "Infractions considered serious" of the LOPDGDD indicates:

"Based on what is established in article 83.4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, are considered serious and will prescribe after two years the infractions that suppose a substantial violation of the articles mentioned therein and, in particular, the following:

f) The lack of adoption of those technical and organizational measures that are appropriate to ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk of treatment, in the terms required by article 32.1 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679."

VIII

Sanction

In order to determine the administrative fine to be imposed, the provisions of articles 83.1 and 83.2 of the GDPR, precepts that state:

- "1. Each control authority will guarantee that the imposition of fines administrative proceedings under this article for violations of this Regulations indicated in sections 4, 5 and 6 are in each individual case effective, proportionate and dissuasive.
- 2. Administrative fines will be imposed, depending on the circumstances of each individual case, in addition to or in lieu of the measures contemplated in
  Article 58, paragraph 2, letters a) to h) and j). When deciding to impose a fine administration and its amount in each individual case shall be duly taken into account:
  a) the nature, seriousness and duration of the offence, taking into account the nature nature, scope or purpose of the processing operation in question, as well as the number C / Jorge Juan, 6

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number of interested parties affected and the level of damages they have suffered;

- b) intentionality or negligence in the infringement;
- c) any measure taken by the person in charge or in charge of the treatment to settle the damages suffered by the interested parties;
- d) the degree of responsibility of the person in charge or of the person in charge of the treatment, habigives an account of the technical or organizational measures that have been applied by virtue of the articles 25 and 32;
- e) any previous infringement committed by the controller or processor;
- f) the degree of cooperation with the supervisory authority in order to remedy the infringement and mitigate the possible adverse effects of the infringement;
- g) the categories of personal data affected by the infringement;

- h) the way in which the supervisory authority became aware of the infringement, in particular determine whether the controller or processor notified the infringement and, if so, to what extent gives; i) when the measures indicated in article 58, paragraph 2, have been ordered given previously against the person in charge or the person in charge in relation to the same matter, compliance with said measures;
- j) adherence to codes of conduct under article 40 or to certification mechanisms. fications approved in accordance with article 42,
- k) any other aggravating or mitigating factor applicable to the circumstances of the case, as the financial benefits obtained or the losses avoided, directly or indirectly.

  mind, through infraction."

For its part, article 76 "Sanctions and corrective measures" of the LOPDGDD has:

- "1. The sanctions provided for in sections 4, 5 and 6 of article 83 of the Regulation (UE) 2016/679 will be applied taking into account the graduation criteria established in section 2 of said article.
- 2. In accordance with the provisions of article 83.2.k) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 may also be taken into account:
- a) The continuing nature of the offence.
- b) Linking the activity of the offender with the performance of processing of personal data.
- c) The benefits obtained as a consequence of the commission of the infraction.
- d) The possibility that the conduct of the affected party could have led to the commission of the offence.
- e) The existence of a merger process by absorption after the commission of the infringement, which cannot be attributed to the absorbing entity.
- f) The affectation of the rights of minors.

- g) Have, when it is not mandatory, a data protection delegate
- h) The submission by the person in charge or in charge, with character voluntary, alternative conflict resolution mechanisms, in those cases in which there are controversies between those and any interested."

data.

Considering the exposed factors, the valuation that reaches the amount of the fine is €1,000 for violation of article 5.1 f) of the GDPR, regarding the violation of the C / Jorge Juan, 6

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principle of confidentiality and €500 for violation of article 32 of the aforementioned GDPR, regarding the security of the processing of personal data.

IX

Responsibility

Establishes Law 40/2015, of October 1, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector, in Chapter III relating to the "Principles of the Power to sanction", in article 28 under the heading "Responsibility", the following:

"1. They may only be penalized for acts constituting an administrative offense physical and legal persons, as well as, when a Law recognizes their capacity to act, the affected groups, the unions and entities without legal personality and the independent or autonomous patrimonies, which are responsible for them title of fraud or fault."

Lack of diligence in implementing appropriate security measures

with the consequence of the breach of the principle of confidentiality constitutes the element of guilt.

Therefore, in accordance with the applicable legislation and assessed the criteria of graduation of sanctions whose existence has been accredited, the Director of the Spanish Data Protection Agency RESOLVES:

FIRST: IMPOSE B.B.B., with NIF \*\*\*NIF.1,

-for an infringement of article 5.1.f) of the GDPR, classified in accordance with the provisions of article Article 83.5 of the GDPR, classified as very serious for the purposes of prescription in the article 72.1 a) of the LOPDGDD, a fine of €1,000.

for a violation of article 32 of the GDPR, classified in accordance with the provisions of article
 article 83.4 of the GDPR, classified as serious for the purposes of prescription in article
 73 f) of the LOPDGDD, a fine of €500.

SECOND: NOTIFY this resolution to B.B.B..

THIRD: Warn the penalized person that they must make the imposed sanction effective

Once this resolution is enforceable, in accordance with the provisions of Article

Article 98.1.b) of Law 39/2015, of October 1, on Administrative Procedure

Common of Public Administrations (hereinafter LPACAP), within the payment term

voluntary established in art. 68 of the General Collection Regulations, approved

by Royal Decree 939/2005, of July 29, in relation to art. 62 of Law 58/2003,

of December 17, by means of its income, indicating the NIF of the sanctioned and the number

of procedure that appears in the heading of this document, in the account

restricted IBAN number: ES00-0000-0000-0000-0000, open in the name of the

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referred Law.

Spanish Agency for Data Protection at the bank CAIXABANK, S.A..

Otherwise, it will proceed to its collection in the executive period.

Once the notification has been received and once executed, if the execution date is between the 1st and 15th of each month, both inclusive, the term to make the payment voluntary will be until the 20th day of the following or immediately following business month, and if between the 16th and the last day of each month, both inclusive, the payment term It will be until the 5th of the second following or immediately following business month.

In accordance with the provisions of article 50 of the LOPDGDD, this

Resolution will be made public once the interested parties have been notified.

Against this resolution, which puts an end to the administrative process in accordance with art. 48.6 of the LOPDGDD, and in accordance with the provisions of article 123 of the LPACAP, the Interested parties may optionally file an appeal for reversal before the

Director of the Spanish Agency for Data Protection within a period of one month from count from the day following the notification of this resolution or directly contentious-administrative appeal before the Contentious-administrative Chamber of the National Court, in accordance with the provisions of article 25 and section 5 of the fourth additional provision of Law 29/1998, of July 13, regulating the Contentious-administrative jurisdiction, within a period of two months from the day following the notification of this act, as provided for in article 46.1 of the

Finally, it is noted that in accordance with the provisions of art. 90.3 a) of the LPACAP, may provisionally suspend the firm resolution in administrative proceedings if the The interested party expresses his intention to file a contentious-administrative appeal. If this is the case, the interested party must formally communicate this fact through writing addressed to the Spanish Data Protection Agency, presenting it through

of the Electronic Registry of the Agency [https://sedeagpd.gob.es/sede-electronica-web/], or through any of the other registries provided for in art. 16.4 of the aforementioned Law 39/2015, of October 1. You must also transfer to the Agency the documentation proving the effective filing of the contentious appeal-administrative. If the Agency was not aware of the filing of the appeal contentious-administrative proceedings within a period of two months from the day following the Notification of this resolution would terminate the precautionary suspension.

Mar Spain Marti

Director of the Spanish Data Protection Agency

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