

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 22, 2018

Dr. Aleksandr Kogan  
University of Cambridge  
Department of Psychology  
Downing Street  
Cambridge, UK CB2 3EB

Dear Dr. Kogan,

We write regarding your involvement in the reported collection of personal data from tens of millions of Americans on behalf of the political analytics company Cambridge Analytica. As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee of Commerce, Science, and Transportation responsible for consumer protection and data security, we seek information regarding the allegations that this data may have been improperly obtained.

According to media reports and public records, in May 2014, you cofounded the company Global Science Research (GSR) to contract with Strategic Communication Laboratories and its subsidiary Cambridge Analytica (“SCL Group”) to collect personal data for psychological profiling.<sup>1</sup> This data was gathered through at least one Facebook application, named your ‘thisisyourdigitallife,’ which was designed to collect user data for those consumers who installed the application and their Facebook friends. Over the course of the life of the application, it reportedly obtained information from 50 million Facebook users based on only 270,000 users installing the application.

There have been conflicting accounts from involved parties that aim to assign accountability based on the level of understanding regarding the application that was allegedly used for this deceptive data collection. The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security is responsible for oversight on consumer protection and data privacy issues affecting American consumers, and clarity on the relevant details is critical.

To assist the Subcommittee in oversight of this matter, please provide responses to the following requests:

1. Describe the types of data you or SCL Group gained access to through the users of the “thisisyourdigitallife” application and their Facebook “friends.” Would any of this data not have been visible on users’ profiles?

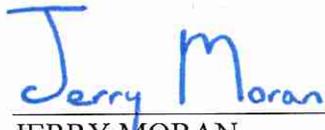
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<sup>1</sup> Thomas, Josh, “University says it has ‘no connection’ with Cambridge Analytica as lecturer caught up in data scandal,” *The Cambridge News*, March 18, 2018, <https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/cambridge-university-analytica-facebook-data-14427387> (accessed March 21, 2018).

2. Did you or SCL Group share the Facebook user data obtained through the “thisisyourdigitallife” application with any other entities?
3. To the best of your knowledge, are you or SCL Group affiliated with any other applications that collect Facebook user information?
4. Please provide a copy of the terms and conditions of the “thisisyourdigitallife” application along with any technical information related to its data retention policies.

Please provide your written responses and any other relevant information by no later than March 30, 2018. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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JERRY MORAN

Chairman  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection,  
Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security



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RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection,  
Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security