

Wederhor World-Check
Reactie van David Crundwell- SeniorVP-Corporate Affairs
Thomson-Reuters

Onderwerp: World-Check - Argos/VPRO Broadcasting about WorldCheck

Thank you for your questions which we received yesterday, along with others from your partner publications working on World-Check stories for imminent publication.

I would like to apologize first and foremost for not answering all your questions individually however as you will see from the explanation below in many cases we are not permitted under Data Privacy rules to respond to specific questions about individuals, other than to those individuals themselves.

World-Check has a clear [privacy statement available on its website](#) which also sets out how any individual can contact us if they believe any of the information held is inaccurate, and we would urge them to do so. We then attempt to respond to these inquiries as quickly as possible.

Hopefully we have managed to address your other questions below, or in the link to the website.

World-Check is one of several services which aggregate information in the public domain, this includes: financial crime data, sanctions data from the UK HM Treasury, The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury and the EU and UN authorities as well as 400+ government sanction, watch, regulatory and law enforcement lists. This data is used by financial institutions to assist them in complying with local sanction legislation.

To assist companies in complying with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regulations World-Check also collates law enforcement, regulatory enforcement and other publicly available information.

Customers can then use this data, all from acknowledged sources, to follow their own regulatory compliance policies and procedures.

We also provide secondary identifying information on individuals, such as dates and place of birth, and this will be similarly verified with reputable and official sources.

If blog content appears, it is only as a supporting source for that secondary information, and is clearly identified as such.

This is all collated by research teams that themselves are specialists: led by subject matter experts with deep domain knowledge focused on topics such as sanctions, terrorism and insurgency, organized crime.

As I said earlier, with reference to discussing specific cases: data protection laws and regulations governing World-Check prevent us from discussing any individual profile.

World-Check was established in the UK specifically due to the regulatory oversight provided by the UK Data Protection Act and EU's Data Use Regulations. And, as you would expect, all profiles on World-Check are regularly reviewed.

The particular database to which you have all referred came to our attention when Thomson Reuters was alerted in June 2016 to this out-of-date information being exposed by a third party. We immediately contacted the third party responsible to ensure there would be no repetition of this unacceptable incident, and we also contacted relevant authorities concerning the matter.

In conclusion it is important to point out that inclusion in World-Check does not imply guilt of any crime, and every record states: "If this profile contains negative allegations, it should be assumed that such allegations are denied. The accuracy of the information found in the underlying media sources should be verified with the profile subject before any action is taken."

I hope this goes some way to addressing your concerns, and I am content for you to take this email/letter as our full explanation and response to your inquiry, and publish under my name.

Bests,

David

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