



Important information security notification

28 April 2026 | Professor Brandon Collier-Reed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning

The University of Cape Town (UCT) wishes to inform staff, students, alumni and stakeholders of a data security incident that may have involved limited personal information.

On 14 April 2026, UCT became aware that certain information contained in correspondence previously transmitted to, or held by, UCT was disclosed externally and entered the public domain without authorisation.

UCT immediately initiated an investigation to determine the nature and extent of the incident, how the disclosure occurred, and whether any further dissemination has taken place. This investigation is ongoing, and no final conclusions have yet been reached regarding the source or mechanism of the disclosure, including whether any internal systems were unlawfully accessed.

Based on current findings, the information involved may include:

- Names and surnames
- Contact details, including email addresses
- Institutional, professional or organisational affiliations
- Views or statements contained in correspondence
- Signatures or other identifying information

UCT has no evidence of misuse of the information. However, affected individuals should be aware of potential risks such as:

- Unsolicited or phishing emails
- Attempts at impersonation or fraud

UCT has taken, and continues to take, the following steps:

- Appointing independent external advisors to assist with the investigation and legal assessment
- Reviewing internal access controls and information security measures
- Implementing any additional necessary remedial actions
- Notifying the Information Regulator (South Africa), where required

As a precaution, UCT recommends that you:

- Change your UCT password and any other accounts using the same password
- Avoid clicking on suspicious links or emails
- Remain vigilant to unusual requests for personal information
- Consider registering with the Southern African Fraud Prevention Service (SAFPS) if you suspect identity compromise

UCT will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates if necessary.

If you have questions or require assistance, please contact: data-security@uct.ac.za.

UCT regrets any concern this incident may cause and remains committed to protecting personal information and maintaining compliance with applicable laws.

Issued by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning