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Business News

Shell Security Breach: Staff Details Leaked

Friday, February 12th 2010 11:21

Energy giant Shell is investigating a security breach that has seen the details of more than 170,000 employees and contractors leaked to the web.

The database, from **Shell's** internal directory, was also posted by email to environmental and human rights campaigners.

Those behind the leak claimed they were members of the company attempting to mount a "peaceful corporate revolution".

Names and telephone numbers for Shell's global workforce made up the list - including some home phone numbers used for business.

The email was accompanied by a 170-page covering note explaining that it was being circulated by a group of "116 concerned employees" from the UK, US and Netherlands.

Shell told Sky News the contact list was genuine but that it believed the email was a hoax.

A spokesman said: "The email was brought to our attention by an external stakeholder. We're looking into it and we do not believe it is genuine."

But he added: "We can confirm that a genuine internal address list was leaked.

"We'll investigate this matter and comply with all legal requirements in relation to this issue."

Shell played down the security risk, saying the details of the data were "primarily business related".

According to the email cover note, the aim of the leak was to highlight the damage allegedly caused by Shell's operations in Nigeria.

It also encouraged members of non-governmental organisations to seek employment with major corporations so they could work "undercover" to campaign for changes in company practices.

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