Media statement on the Youth For Causes cybersecurity incident

On 19 October 2026, we were alerted to a cybersecurity incident involving the Youth For Causes portal. We took the affected system offline that day and engaged independent cybersecurity specialists to investigate.

The portal contained participants' names, their schools, and the organisations they supported. The associated database contained participants' names, dates of birth, contact details and school information, as well as full or partial NRIC numbers collected. It also contained the names and contact details of the next of kin, teachers-in-charge, mentors and judges.

The investigation confirmed unauthorised access to the portal. Investigators could not determine whether any personal data was accessed or extracted. As a precaution, we decided to notify more than 13,000 individuals who may have been affected.

Our immediate priority is to identify, notify, and support everyone who may have been affected, including students. We are contacting them directly to explain what happened, outline steps they can take to protect themselves, and let them know where to get help. Anyone with questions or concerns can contact our Incident Response Team at irt@ymca.org.sg.

We notified the Personal Data Protection Commission on 22 October 2026 and provided a further update on 19 November 2026 after receiving the investigation findings. We will review those findings and take steps to strengthen our cybersecurity controls and reduce the risk of a similar incident.

We are sorry this happened, and we recognise the worry it has caused. Participants, mentors, teachers, and volunteers trust us with their personal information. We take that responsibility seriously and will use the investigation findings to strengthen how we protect it.

Sent on: 21 November 2026