



in breach of the Agreement. During discovery, Plaintiff Intellibed sought information regarding London Luxury's: 1) gross annual sales, 2) annual sales with Mattress Firm, 3) gross sale for its ten largest customers, 4) relationship with Mattress Firm employees, 5) its ability to market a Columbia-branded mattress and 6) discussions with Mattress Firm regarding Plaintiff's product.<sup>3</sup> London Luxury raised various objections, including referencing a court order issued by the district judge a year ago, wherein she concluded there is no authority to support Plaintiff's position that "a party's actions prior to contract formation constitute a breach of contract."<sup>4</sup> This motion followed.

### **DISCUSSION**

The interrogatories at issue are numbers 1-5, and 9-10, and document requests 7-10 and 12 (collectively "the Requests"). Defendant contests the relevance of the information sought by Plaintiff. In addition, Defendant also informed the court of certain stipulations it offered to make during the "meet and confer" which would moot the need for any financial disclosures.<sup>5</sup> It appears Plaintiff refused the stipulations and did not disclose them to the court.

Federal Rule 26 sets forth the scope and limits of discovery available to parties. It provides that parties

may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case, considering the importance of the issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy, the resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> ECF No. 45.

<sup>4</sup> ECF No. 26 at 21.

<sup>5</sup> ECF No. 51.

<sup>6</sup> [Fed. R. Civ. P. 26\(b\)](#).

Thus a party must demonstrate that requested discovery is not only relevant but also proportional to the needs of the case.

Admittedly relevance is broadly construed at the discovery stage of a case, but it is not without limits.<sup>7</sup> Here, the relevance of the discovery requested is questionable given that as the district judge explained a party's actions prior to contract formation do not constitute a breach of contract. Further, in weighing the proportionality requirement, the court finds the burden of producing the requested proprietary and confidential information outweighs its benefit. The court finds it is not proportional to the needs of the case especially given its questionable relevance and the fact that London Luxury has offered to supplement its previous responses. Accordingly, the court DENIES the motion and orders London Luxury to provide the supplemental responses it proposed in its opposition brief.<sup>8</sup>

#### **ORDER**

For the reasons set forth above the Court DENIES Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel. The Court FURTHER ORDERS the production of the supplementation within fourteen (14) days from the date of this order.

DATED this 12 December 2018.



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Brooke C. Wells  
United States Magistrate Judge

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<sup>7</sup> See *Oppenheimer Fund, Inc. v. Sanders*, 437 U.S. 340, 351, 98 S. Ct. 2380, 2389, 57 L. Ed. 2d 253, (1978) (“discovery, like all matters of procedure, has ultimate and necessary boundaries.”); *Kannaday v. Ball*, 292 F.R.D. 640, 650 (D. Kan. 2013) (noting the standards of discovery).

<sup>8</sup> See ECF No. 51.