



**Information Commissioner's Office**  
Promoting public access to official information  
and protecting your personal information

For immediate release

Date: 4 July 2008

### **Get recognition for excellence in data protection**

The Information Commissioner's Office is encouraging organisations in the public sector to seek recognition for good data protection practices by applying for a prestigious European award which aims to increase awareness of best practice in data protection around Europe.

David Smith, Deputy Commissioner, said: "Many UK organisations demonstrate good practice in information handling - a fact that was reinforced last year when Scotland's eCare Framework was given a special commendation at the Madrid awards. Events over the past year have increased the public's awareness of privacy issues and data protection compliance has never been so important. These awards provide an opportunity not only to highlight achievements by winning a prestigious award, but also to share UK expertise with organisations throughout Europe."

Robert Forman, from the Transformational Technologies Division at the Scottish Government, who managed the team that developed last year's specially commended eCare Framework, said "We were delighted to be awarded a special mention award in Madrid last year. The prize and the international recognition highlight the importance of good data protection practice for organisations across Europe."

The award for best practice in European public services is run by the Data Protection Agency for the Region of Madrid. Applications must be received before 27 August and winners will be announced later in the year.

**ENDS**

If you would like further information, please contact the ICO press office on 020 7025 7580.

**See Notes to Editors below**

1. The Information Commissioner promotes public access to official information and protects personal information. The ICO is an independent body with specific responsibilities set out in the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.
2. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)
3. Applications must be submitted by post or in person at the Registry of the Data Protection Agency of Madrid, calle Cardenal Marcelo Spínola, número 14, tercera planta, 28016 Madrid, or at any Registry of the Madrid Regional Government. Application forms are available and must be accompanied by a full dossier with extra information on what has been achieved. Applications, either in English or Spanish, must be submitted before 27 August 2008.
4. In 2004 the award was presented to the City Council of Vitoria-Gasteiz and two special mentions were awarded to the projects submitted by the University of Valencia and the Management of the Primary Health Care Area 10 of the Madrid Health Institute. In 2005 the Government and Data Protection Commission from Austria won and two special mentions were awarded to the University Rey Juan Carlos of Madrid and the Office for Housing. In 2006 the award was presented to the projects "Providing confidentiality and Information Management and Technology Security Service to the United Kingdom NHS organisations across the South and West Yorkshire" and "Data Protection Plan 2005-2006 of the City of Madrid." In 2007, Scotland's eCare Framework team was given a special mention award for its work enabling information sharing between public sector agencies for the care and protection of citizens and permitting authorised professionals to share sensitive personal data in a controlled and secure way.
5. For more information on the award, please go to:  
[http://www.madrid.org/cs/Satellite?c=CM\\_Texto\\_FA&cid=1142464250392&idPage=1109266885515&language=es&pagename=APDCM%2FCM\\_Texto\\_FA%2FmuestraTextoFA\\_APDCM](http://www.madrid.org/cs/Satellite?c=CM_Texto_FA&cid=1142464250392&idPage=1109266885515&language=es&pagename=APDCM%2FCM_Texto_FA%2FmuestraTextoFA_APDCM)