



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

## **Press Release**

### **For immediate release**

Date: 10 March 2008

### **ICO conference examines data protection challenges for 2008**

Data protection officers from across the country are meeting today to address some of the key data protection challenges facing organisations this year as the protection of personal information becomes an increasing priority for both organisations and individuals. The Data Protection Officer conference in Manchester, hosted by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), will also launch the ICO's data protection strategy.

The data protection strategy sets out how the ICO goes about its task of minimising data protection risk. In doing so it explains how the ICO will focus its data protection resources on situations where there is the greatest risk of harm to individuals through improper use of their personal information.

Recent security breaches in both the private and public sector have highlighted the need for organisations to ensure personal information is processed securely. The conference will examine how data protection officers can encourage organisations to adopt appropriate security measures when working with personal information.

David Smith, Deputy Commissioner, said: "High profile data losses in the last few months have demonstrated the importance of data protection. As increasing numbers of organisations are collecting more and more personal information, it is essential that effective data protection policies and practices are in place. Vigilance and strong leadership are needed at the highest level in all organisations to ensure data protection is taken seriously."

Speakers at the conference include Richard Thomas, Information Commissioner, and Michael Wills MP, Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice with responsibility for data protection and data sharing.

## **ENDS**

If you need more information, please contact the Information Commissioner's press office on 020 7025 7580 or visit the website at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

### **Notes to Editors**

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. The ICO will be hosting the Data Protection Officer Conference on Monday 10 March 2008 in Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.
4. The launch of the data protection strategy follows a consultation process in June 2007
5. Anyone who processes personal information must comply with eight principles, which make sure that personal information is:
  - Fairly and lawfully processed
  - Processed for limited purposes
  - Adequate, relevant and not excessive
  - Accurate and up to date
  - Not kept for longer than is necessary
  - Processed in line with your rights
  - Secure
  - Not transferred to other countries without adequate protection