



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

Press Release

For immediate release

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ICO urges organisations to do more to protect individuals' privacy

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has commissioned the Enterprise Privacy Group to provide a report examining how organisations can build in privacy protection before implementing new initiatives and technologies.

As more and more personal information is collected and shared and the use of biometric technology grows, it is increasingly important that essential safeguards are put in place from the outset in order to protect against potential risks to individuals' privacy. 'Privacy by design' encourages organisations to give due consideration to data protection prior to the development of new initiatives. The project will comprise a report into the 'privacy by design' concept and an exploration of the use of existing privacy enhancing technologies.

Jonathan Bamford, Assistant Commissioner at the ICO, said: "For many years we have urged organisations to consider the impact on individuals' privacy before developing new IT systems. However progress has been disappointing. In our view organisations could be doing more to protect individuals' privacy by adopting 'privacy by design'.

"Very often the collection and use of personal information is essential and beneficial to modern life, but it is important for individuals' privacy to be a consideration in the planning stages of any new project."

The completed report will be published at an ICO conference entitled 'Privacy by Design' at the Lowry Hotel Manchester on the 26 November 2008. Further details can be found at www.ico.gov.uk.

ENDS

If you need more information, please contact the ICO press office on 020 7025 7580 or visit the website at: 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
3. The Enterprise Privacy Group is an association of organisations working in partnership to understand privacy and identity-related issues and to achieve collaborative solutions.

For more information on EPG, visit <http://www.privacygroup.org/>

For more information on their work this project, visit <http://www.privacybydesign.co.uk>

4. 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