



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

Press Release

For immediate release

Date: 21 August 2008

ICO prosecutes Harrow accountant

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) yesterday successfully prosecuted a Middlesex accountant for offences under the Data Protection Act. Mr Satish Lakhani of Lake & Co Accountants based in Harrow, was fined £300 and ordered to pay costs of £483.40, plus a victims' surcharge of £15 at Harrow Magistrates Court. Mr Lakhani must pay a total of £798.40 in fines and costs.

The prosecution follows Mr Lakhani's failure to notify as a data controller despite repeated reminders from the ICO of his obligations under the Data Protection Act. Under the Act, organisations that process individuals' personal information may be required to notify with the Information Commissioner at a nominal cost of £35 per year. Mr Lakhani has now notified with the ICO.

Mick Gorrill, Assistant Commissioner at the ICO, said: "The Data Protection Act gives us all important rights, ensuring that organisations process and protect our personal information properly. Notifying as a data controller under the Data Protection Act is an important obligation for any organisation which processes personal information. The Information Commissioner's Office stands ready to use its powers to prosecute the small minority of businesses that flout the Act by failing to notify with the ICO. Today's case is the fourth accountancy firm that we have prosecuted this year alone."

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

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. Notification is a form of registration. Most organisations that hold personal data are required to notify with the ICO under the DPA because they are holding personal data. However, certain exemptions exist for bodies that only process personal data for staff administration, accounts, advertising, marketing and public relations. For advice on notification, organisations can call the Notification Helpline on 01625 545 740
3. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.gov.uk