



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

Press Release

For immediate release

Date: Monday 14 April 2008

ICO invites tenders to review EU Data Protection Law

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is inviting tenders to carry out a study into the strengths and weaknesses of the EU Data Protection Law.

Following increasing public awareness and concerns about the need for effective privacy safeguards and the pace of technological developments, the ICO is keen to stimulate debate on how data protection in practice can be improved. The study will help to inform this debate by examining the EU Data Protection Directive and its application and by identifying ways to improve EU law which will provide effective protection for individuals and society while minimising burdens for organisations

Iain Bourne, Head of Data Protection Projects at the ICO, said: "There is a growing feeling that the EU Directive on data protection is becoming increasingly outdated and is more bureaucratic and burdensome than it needs to be. Although only the European Commission can initiate the process for changing the Directive, the ICO wants to start a debate about its strengths and weaknesses to ensure EU data protection law effectively meets the needs of organisations and individuals."

For further information about the invitation to tender please contact Iain Bourne at iain.bourne@ico.gsi.gov.uk or go to http://www.ico.gov.uk/Home/about_us/career_opportunities/invitations_to_tender.asp
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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. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.gov.uk
3. 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