



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

Press Release

For immediate release

Date: 31 March 2008

ICO prosecutes London law firm

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has successfully prosecuted a London solicitor for offences under the Data Protection Act. Sajjad Khan of Knights Solicitors, based in London, was fined £650 and ordered to pay costs of £525.40 plus a victims' surcharge of £15 at London City Magistrates' Court. Mr Khan must pay a total of £1,190.40 in fines and costs.

The prosecution follows Mr Khan'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.

Mick Gorrill, Assistant Commissioner at the ICO, said: "Organisations must take their data protection responsibilities seriously. As this prosecution demonstrates, we stand ready to use our powers to prosecute the small minority of businesses that flout the Data Protection Act. This is the third solicitor we have prosecuted for data protection offences in six weeks. It is simply not acceptable for solicitors, professionals charged with dispensing legal advice, to flout the law in this way."

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.
3. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.gov.uk