



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

## **Press Release**

### **For immediate release**

Date: 30 July 2008

### **ICO prosecutes London accountant**

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) yesterday successfully prosecuted a London accountant for offences under the Data Protection Act. Mr Aziz Arian of Arian & Co Accountants based in Whitechapel, was fined £400 and ordered to pay costs of £518.40, plus a victims' surcharge of £15 at London City Magistrates Court. Mr Arian must pay a total of £933.40 in fines and costs.

The prosecution follows Mr Arian'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: "The Data Protection Act ensures that people's personal information is properly processed and protected. Notifying as a data controller under the Data Protection Act is an important obligation for all organisations which process 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 third 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](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. 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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)