



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

Press Release

For immediate release

Date: 12 December 2008

ICO prosecutes London law firms

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has successfully prosecuted three London law firms for offences under the Data Protection Act. Kumar Bulathwela of P Krama & Co Solicitors, based in Kilburn, was fined £250 and ordered to pay costs of £504.48 plus a victims' surcharge of £15 at London City Magistrates' Court. Mr Bulathwela must pay a total of £769.48 in fines and costs.

Janet Meisner of Preston Mellor Harrison Solicitors, based in Chislehurst, was fined £150 and ordered to pay costs of £504.48 plus a victims' surcharge of £15. Ms Meisner must pay a total of £669.48.

South Norwood firm, Haider Kennedy Solicitors, represented by Shuja Haider, was fined £350 and ordered to pay costs of £525.48 plus a victims' surcharge of £15. The firm must pay a total of £890.48.

The prosecution follows the firms' failure to notify as data controllers despite repeated reminders from the ICO of their 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. It is disappointing that we continue to see solicitors, professionals charged with dispensing legal advice,

ignoring their obligations in this way. As this prosecution demonstrates, we stand ready to use our powers to prosecute the small minority of organisations that flout the Data Protection Act.”

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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’s Office 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