



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

Press Release

For immediate release

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ICO prosecutes London law firms

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has today successfully prosecuted two London solicitors for offences under the Data Protection Act. Olubi Adejobi of Grier Olubi Solicitors and Robert Bentley of Bentley's Solicitors, both based in London, were each fined £300 and ordered to pay costs of £500 plus a victims' surcharge of £15 at Stratford Magistrates' Court. Each solicitor must pay a total of £815 in fines and costs.

Today's prosecution follows the failure of both Mr Adejobi and Mr Bentley 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. Despite being told to notify, both Mr Adejobi and Mr Bentley have failed to respond to any of the ICO's correspondence and have still not notified.

Mick Gorrill, Assistant Commissioner at the ICO, said: "Organisations must take their data protection responsibilities seriously. It is particularly disappointing that these cases involve solicitors – professionals entrusted with giving legal advice – not complying with the law.

"As today's prosecution demonstrates, we stand ready to use our powers to prosecute the small minority of businesses that flout the Data Protection Act. We contacted Mr Adejobi and Mr Bentley on a number of occasions to remind

them of their duty under the Act, but they consistently failed to register as data controllers. This prosecution will serve as an important reminder to organisations of their obligation to notify.”

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