



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

Press Release

07 August 2009

ICO appoints consultants to put a value on privacy protection

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has appointed Watson Hall Ltd and John Leach Information Security Ltd (JLIS Ltd) to undertake a three-month research project with the aim of producing a comprehensive business case for investing in proactive privacy protection.

The research project - *The business case for investing in proactive privacy protection* - will explore methods involved in implementing business processes, procuring information systems and detail the role and value of personal information for organisations that handle it. Organisations in both the public and private sector will be included.

Jonathan Bamford, Assistant Commissioner at the ICO, said: "The consultants will bring together a wide range of views by conducting interviews and inviting comments on a discussion document. Data protection needs to be taken as seriously as health and safety at all levels in an organisation. Putting a value on privacy protection and investing resources in it is crucial to help ensure that effective safeguards are in place. The consultants want input from a range of organisations that collect and process personal information to help ensure that the end product is as relevant and useful in practice as possible."

The discussion document will be available on Friday 14 August 2009 at <http://watsonhall.com/privacy.protection> and participants are invited to send their responses by 1 September 2009.

ENDS

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 the UK's independent influential and practical authority on information rights and responsibilities, making a difference to people
2. The ICO has 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
3. Organisations can now sign the Personal Information Promise to demonstrate their commitment to protecting people's personal information by visiting the website at www.ico.gov.uk
4. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.gov.uk
5. 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