



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

Press Release

22 May 2009

ICO prosecutes Peckham recruitment company

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has successfully prosecuted a Peckham recruitment company for offences under the Data Protection Act. Metro3 Staffing Limited was fined £250 and ordered to pay costs of £448 plus a victims' surcharge of £15. The company must pay a total of £713.

The prosecution follows the company's failure to notify as a data controller despite reminders from the ICO of its obligations under the Data Protection Act. Under the Act, organisations that process individuals' personal information may be required to notify the Information Commissioner's Office at a nominal cost of £35 per year.

Assistant Information Commissioner, Mick Gorrill, said: "Organisations must take their data protection responsibilities seriously. Recruitment companies hold a wealth of personal information on their clients and we will not hesitate to take action against the small minority of organisations flouting the Act."

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. Metro3 Staffing Limited was prosecuted on Tuesday 19 May 2009, at London City Magistrates.
2. 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

3. 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
4. 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
5. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.gov.uk
6. 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