

Welcome to the ICO's Dec 2018 e-newsletter

You have received this email as example@emailaddress.test is currently subscribed to receive ICO communications.
[Click to unsubscribe](#)

View: [Online version](#) | [Add to safe senders](#)



Welcome from the Information Commissioner

In a year that has seen the biggest upgrade in UK data protection laws for 20 years, it was appropriate and a great pleasure to meet up with the four other people to have done the job that I now do.



I have had the privilege and pleasure of getting to know all the previous commissioners individually, but it is a rare event to get us all in the same room at the same time.

At a dinner in Manchester with our non-executive directors we compared notes, shared experiences and debated the big issues of the day.

Eric Howe was the first UK Data Protection regulator and served as the Registrar from 1984-1994. Elizabeth France oversaw a period of significant legislative change and served until 2002. She saw the introduction of the FOI Act in 2000. Richard Thomas headed the office from 2002-2009 and was charged with implementation of FOI. Christopher Graham was our commissioner from 2009 to 2016; he focused on raising data protection awareness and implementation of the European framework. All of the Commissioners spoke to me about the importance of international connections, of keeping abreast of technology and commended the work of the dedicated and creative staff who worked with them over the years. They encouraged me to retain the sense of 'family' at the ICO but acknowledged it would be a challenge given that we are approaching 700 staff!

It's been an extremely busy year for the ICO and the last few weeks have been no exception. Along with our information rights work and enforcement action, which you can read about below, I have been in India and New Zealand speaking at conferences and meeting with officials and regulators' forums, and also at a UK-Indian tech forum.

I was there as UK Information Commissioner but also as the Chair of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (ICDPPC), a position to which I was elected to last month (see [last month's newsletter](#)).

This month, we published an update on our investigation into the use of data analytics for political purposes. The report, [which you can read on our website](#), sets out what we have found and what we now know. But it is not the end. Some of the issues uncovered in our investigation are still ongoing or will require further investigation or action. Throughout our enquiries we found a disturbing disregard for voters' personal privacy by players across the political campaigning eco-system — from data companies and data brokers to social media platforms, campaign groups and political parties.

We also [announced the findings of our investigation into the Metropolitan Police Service's Gangs Matrix](#), a database that records intelligence related to gang members. What we found ran deep to the fundamental principles of data protection law. We found that, whilst there was a valid purpose for the database, the way it was being used across Boroughs failed to comply with data protection laws and the Met's own rules. Ignoring people's fundamental data rights erodes trust and confidence, which risks alienating the communities the Met serves. People must also know that in the ICO they have an effective regulator. And that includes holding police forces to account to make sure that they meet their obligations to use and look after personal data fairly and responsibly.

Enjoy the festive period and have a restful new year.

Our work



Sleigh-ing the Christmas GDPR myths

In the latest of our series of GDPR myth-busting blogs, [a new post by Deputy Commissioner \(Policy\) Steve Wood](#) tackles some misconceptions which have sprung up around how the new data protection law might affect your Christmas.



Sandbox blog

The ICO will be holding a Sandbox consultation workshop on 6 February 2019 in London. If you feel you are qualified to make a positive contribution to this event, either because you would like to take part in the Sandbox when it opens or represent those who do, please contact us by emailing sandbox@ico.org.uk. You can read more about the project and our latest work in our [Sandbox blog](#).



There are just a few weeks left to submit your views to us on two codes of practice

The Data Protection Act 2018 requires the Commissioner to produce a code of practice that provides practical guidance and promotes good practice in regard to direct marketing. [This call for views is open until 24 December.](#)

We are also calling for views on code of practice for political campaigning. We anticipate that the code will apply to all data controllers who process personal data for the purpose of political campaigning. [This call for views is open until 21 December.](#)



ICO appoints expert to research and investigate the impact of Artificial Intelligence on data privacy

We have [appointed our first Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Artificial Intelligence](#) (AI).

Dr Reuben Binns, an influential figure in the emerging AI and data protection policy community, is joining the ICO on a fixed term fellowship. During his two-year term, Dr Binns will research and investigate a framework for auditing algorithms and conduct further in-depth research activities in AI and machine learning.

ICO promotes data protection standards around the world



The ICO recently attended a two-day Forum in Mexico City focussed on the Council of Europe's Data Protection Convention. Deputy Commissioner Steve Wood took the opportunity to stress the UK's ongoing commitment to high data protection standards and to being a strong international partner. He also highlighted the potential for Convention 108 to provide a strong bridge between many Data Protection systems around the world. [Read his speech in full here.](#)

ICO gives evidence to Parliament Grand Committee

Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham and Deputy Commissioner Steve Wood were among witnesses from nine jurisdictions to give evidence to a Grand Committee in Parliament into electoral interference and internet harms. [You can read the transcripts and more about the committee here.](#)



Events and Webinars

Data Protection Practitioners' Conference 2019

Plans for the ICO's Data Protection Practitioners' Conference 2019 are well underway. Registration for the April 8 event is open until 21 January. Meanwhile, if you're a data protection officer or responsible for data protection in your organisation, we want to hear about your experiences since the GDPR and DPA 2018 came into effect. Please [fill in the survey](#) and tell us what you think. And, if you've got a really good story to tell, we might ask you to share it at the conference.

We've also opened up registration for exhibitors and are asking all those interested to [give additional information about how their offering can add value or enrich our delegates' experience.](#)

In other news

We are aware of an organisation that claims to be compiling a GDPR non-compliance register and threatens to report non-compliance to the ICO.

The ICO has not tasked any organisation or group to report non-compliance. We have not authorised, approved or sanctioned any contact that this organisation might make with you. You do not need to respond to communications about GDPR non-compliance from this, or any other organisation that is not the ICO.

If, however, you would like advice about the GDPR and how to comply, we'd be happy to help. There's lots of useful information about your data protection obligations in our Guide to the GDPR, or you can call the helpline.

Enforcement Action



Six month prison sentence for motor industry employee in first ICO Computer Misuse Act prosecution

A motor industry employee has been sentenced to six months in prison in the [first prosecution to be brought by the ICO under legislation which carries a potential prison sentence](#).

Mustafa Kasim, who worked for accident repair firm Nationwide Accident Repair Services (NARS), accessed thousands of customer records containing personal data without permission, using his colleagues' log-in details to access a software system that estimates the cost of vehicle repairs, known as Audatex.



ICO fines Uber £385,000 over data protection failings

We have [fined ride sharing company Uber £385,000](#) for failing to protect customers' personal information during a cyber attack.

A series of avoidable data security flaws allowed the personal details of around 2.7 million UK customers to be accessed and downloaded by attackers from a cloud-based storage system operated by Uber's US parent company. This included full names, email addresses and phone numbers.

ICO issues the first fines to organisations who have not paid the data protection fee



Organisations from a range of sectors, from childcare and health to construction and finance, are among the first to be [fined by the ICO for not paying the data protection fee](#).

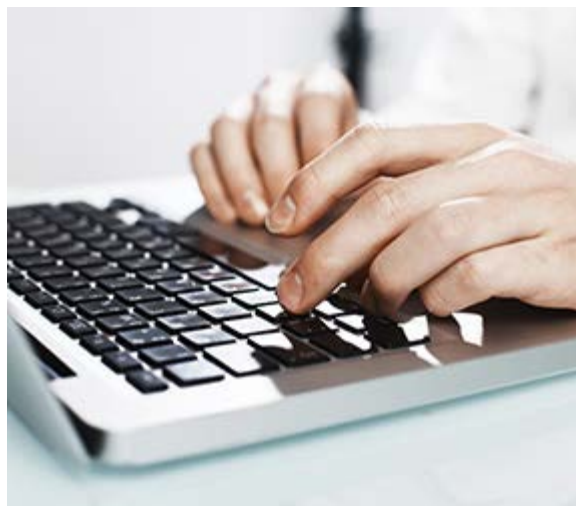
All organisations, companies and sole traders that process personal data must pay an annual fee to the ICO unless they are exempt. Fines for not paying can be up to a maximum of £4,350.



Two firms fined for over one million nuisance calls made to TPS subscribers

We have [fined two companies that made nearly 1.73 million direct marketing phone calls to people registered with the Telephone Preference Service \(TPS\)](#).

It is against the law to make marketing calls to numbers that have been registered with the TPS for more than 28 days, unless people have provided consent.



Former headteacher prosecuted for unlawfully obtaining school children's personal information

A former headteacher has been [fined in court for unlawfully obtaining school children's personal data](#) from previous schools where he worked.

Darren Harrison of Twickenham, obtained the information from two primary schools where he had worked, and uploaded it to his then current school's server. As he had no lawful reason to process the personal data, he was in breach of data protection legislation.

[Previous e-newsletters can be viewed on the ICO website.](#)

Further information

For more information about the ICO, subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.org.uk. The ICO is also on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). A list of our latest job vacancies can also be found at: <http://www.ico.jobs/>.

Information Commissioner's Office
Registered office: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

[Unsubscribe](#)

If you wish to unsubscribe, please click on the link below.

Please note this is an automated operation.

<http://newsletter.ico.org.uk/u/1hxBAhvIMN>

