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Date: 5 December 2023

### IC-268345-V3N5

### Request

You asked us:

"In a recent interview, Information Commissioner John Edwards said:

"We are also naming; we are issuing reprimands more and we are publishing them more. So that's a new phenomenon under my leadership of the organization," he said. "And for the people who say, 'you don't enforce, this is a slap over the wrist with a wet bus ticket,' they should see the threats of litigation we get over the prospect of being publicly named. These are real sanctions, because then there's a public accountability."

The interview can be found here: <a href="https://mlex.shorthandstories.com/in-cases-like-snap-ai-chatbot-edwards-seeks-agile-enforcement-for-final-three-years-as-ico-chief/index.html">https://mlex.shorthandstories.com/in-cases-like-snap-ai-chatbot-edwards-seeks-agile-enforcement-for-final-three-years-as-ico-chief/index.html</a>

Please disclose the names of companies who have threatened litigation when there has been a prospect that they would be publicly named in a reprimand published by the ICO. This should only apply to reprimands that have now been finalised - I do not seek the names of any companies or other defendants whose reprimands have yet to be published, or when the ICO ultimately decided not to issue a reprimand.

If you cannot name the issuers of those threats, please provide the number of cases in which the above has occurred during commissioner John Edwards' tenure."

We received your request on 6 November 2023. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).



## Our response

I have consulted with the teams who can issue reprimands to determine if we hold any information in scope of the parameters of your request. I can confirm that we do not hold any information in scope of your request.

For context, I can confirm that we have received threats of legal action in the context of issuing a reprimand. However, taking into account the wording of your request, these are either not finalised or the ICO chose not to issue a reprimand and are therefore not in scope of your request.

# **Next steps**

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure on our website.

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can raise a complaint through our website.

#### Your information

Our <u>privacy notice</u> explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and sets out <u>your rights</u>. Our <u>Retention and Disposal Policy</u> details how long we keep information.

Yours sincerely



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