

Welcome to the ICO's Feb 2019 e-newsletter



Welcome from the Information Commissioner

The UK faces the biggest public policy uncertainty in many decades with the pending departure from the EU. Regulators and businesses are concerned and want to ensure legal continuity in all scenarios.

That's why we've published one of our myth-busting blogs for small businesses preparing for a possible no-deal Brexit. The blog, and the guidance and tools on our website, will help you prepare and be aware of the issues you may face. And we've got more help in the pipeline.



We're looking for input from you too. Just yesterday we held a workshop event to gather views about how our sandbox could work. Around 60 delegates from industry, public sector, tech and government considered our thinking so far - from early engagement through to application, sandbox entry and, ultimately, exit.

We're still seeking views on our Freedom of Information strategy too. Time's running out if you want to have your say.

And on the subject of FOI, I have laid a report in Parliament calling for urgent action on access to information laws and practices. The report makes the case to extend FOI to include outsourced contractors delivering public services. This is an issue that cuts to the heart of the public's right to know. We all deserve the right to question and challenge when it comes to our public services.

All our work is important and this month's newsletter illustrates the extent of our reach. Our data protection work is funded by organisations like yours and we could not achieve what we do without it. Paying the data protection fee is mandatory but, as our blog explains, paying the fee also shows you mean business. It tells customers and competitors that you take data protection seriously.

In your sector

Data protection if there's no Brexit deal

Data flows, Brexit and SMEs

[Elizabeth Denham's latest blog](#) busts the myths for UK small and medium sized businesses transferring personal data to and from the EEA.

Our work



ICO calls for update of access to information laws

We have laid a report in Parliament setting out the case for reforming access to information laws.



Still time to comment on our access to information strategy

Gill Bull, our Director of Freedom of Information, has published the ICO's proposed strategy for the next three years. She is inviting comments to help inform a final version, which will

[Outsourcing Oversight?](#) calls for an update to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to include organisations providing a public function.



Register your interest for the ICO regulatory sandbox

The sandbox will support organisations to develop innovative products and services using personal data in different ways. We have published a discussion paper setting out how we see it working in practice. [Find out more in our latest sandbox blog post and register your interest.](#)



ICO celebrates the success of innovative data protection projects

be launched later in 2019.

[Read the draft strategy in full and submit your comments.](#)



Peter Hustinx appointed as non-executive director

Peter Hustinx, who was the first European Data Protection Supervisor and served in the role for more than 10 years, [has been appointed as a non-executive director of the ICO.](#) This appointment strengthens our commitment to remaining an effective and influential international data protection regulator post-Brexit.



Paying your data protection fee makes good business sense

Businesses that process personal data

Monday 28 January marked the 13th annual Data Protection Day. On this day, we [celebrated the success of innovative data protection projects](#) which were the first to receive money as part of the ICO's grants programme.

have to pay a fee to the ICO. Our [blog](#) explains that failing to pay your fee could result in a fine.

This month we have also started publishing [information about the fines we've issued](#).

Events and webinars



Data Protection Practitioners' Conference update

Registration for places is now closed. There were over 3,000 applications for just over 800 places so unfortunately we cannot accommodate everyone.

We will email people to let them know if they have a place next week.

There will be other ways for those without a place to be involved via social media and the conference live stream.

Please [keep an eye on the conference website](#) for updates to the agenda and speaker announcements and follow #DPPC2019 on social media.

ICIC

Spaces still available for the ICIC 2019

Elizabeth Denham will be among the speakers at the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) annual conference in South Africa on 10-13 March 2019. Ahead of the event, Elizabeth, who chairs the Governance Working Group of the ICIC, said:

“Access to information is access to insight and influence, and has an integral role in the sustainable development of nations. It is against this backdrop that commissioners, authorities and civil society organisations from Africa and the rest of the world meet in South Africa. The conference is an opportunity to discuss the key emerging issues, and also represents an important milestone as we look to further develop our shared international network.”

Further details can be found on [the](#)

Enforcement action

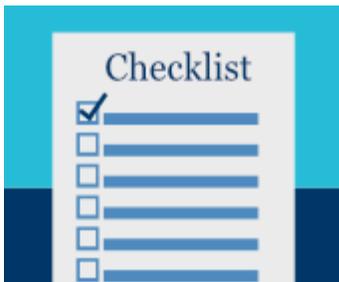


Leave.EU and Eldon Insurance fined a total of £120,000

The EU referendum campaign and an insurance company were both fined for [serious breaches of electronic marketing laws](#). We will be auditing the data protection practices at Leave.EU and Eldon Insurance.

This enforcement action is a result of our [investigation into data analytics for political purposes](#).

Other ICO enforcement action in January



NWR Limited based in Kent made 827,883 calls to numbers registered with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) between May 2016 and May 2018. An [enforcement notice has been issued](#) to the company ordering it to stop its illegal marketing activity.

Alistar Green Legal Services Limited based in Liverpool [has been fined £80,000](#) for making 213 nuisance calls to TPS subscribers between March and July 2017. The company was also [issued an enforcement notice](#).



Nominate your data protection professional of 2019

We are calling for nominations for the second Practitioner Award for Excellence in Data Protection, recognising practitioners who go above and beyond when it comes to implementing data protection in practice.

The inaugural award in 2018 was won by Esther Watt, Data Protection Officer at North Kesteven Council in Lincolnshire.

[You can nominate here](#). Entries are open until 28 February 2018.



Together for a better internet

Tuesday 5 February was Safer Internet Day 2019. This annual event is marked by more than 140 countries under the slogan "Together for a

Extra news

E-newsletter readers have told us they would like to receive updates from the ICO via email more regularly; particularly to receive

better internet". This year, we highlighted our work to create an [Age Appropriate Design Code of Practice](#).

[Find out more about Safer Internet Day on the event website.](#)

information about new guidance on the day of release. If you would like to receive additional email updates about the ICO's work [please complete this form](#).

If you have already completed the form, you do not need to do so again.

[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/>.

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