



Privacy & Data Protection

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Headlines:

- T-Mobile employee pleads guilty to data breach offence p.17
- Internal data breach at PwC p.18
- Council discloses personal data on planning department website p.19

ICO fines organisations for data protection breaches

In what is a historic moment for data protection in the UK, the Information Commissioner has used his new powers to issue the first ever monetary penalties.

Hertfordshire County Council has been given a penalty of £100,000 for two 'serious breaches' involving staff mistakenly faxing highly sensitive personal data to the wrong recipients on two separate occasions in June 2010.

The first fax was meant for barristers' chambers, but was instead faxed to

a member of the public. It contained details of a child abuse case before court.

The second fax contained information relating to the care proceedings of three children, the previous convictions of two individuals, domestic violence records and care professionals' opinions, and was sent to barristers' chambers unconnected with the case.

The ICO said that the access to the data could have caused substantial damage and distress, and as such it felt that a monetary penalty in this case was appropriate,

particularly considering that after the first breach occurred, the Council did not take sufficient steps to reduce the likelihood of another breach occurring.

A spokesperson for the Council told *Privacy and Data Protection*: "We are sorry that these mistakes happened and have put processes in place to try to prevent any recurrence. We accept the findings of the Commissioner."

A second fine of £60,000 has been handed to A4e, an employment services organisation, for losing an unencrypted laptop containing the data of

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Google committed to improve data handling

Google Inc. has signed an Undertaking with the UK Information Commissioner that it will improve data handling. The organisation will make improvements to ensure that breaches, such as the collection of personal data on Wifi networks by Google Street View vehicles, will not happen in the future.

Measures Google is obligated to implement include the following:

1. To train and update all

relevant staff on UK data protection law;

2. To train staff on internal privacy codes of conduct and policies;

3. To train engineers and other important groups with a particular focus on the responsible collection, use and handling of data.

4. To institute a security awareness program for Google employees, which will include guidance on both

security and privacy;

5. To institute a policy that requires engineering project leaders to maintain a privacy design document for each initiative they are working on which involves the processing of significant user data, and a policy that such document should (a) record how such user data is handled and (b) be reviewed regularly by managers;

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