



# Privacy & Data Protection

Volume 10, Issue 6

June 2010

## Headlines:

- Working Party writes to big three search engines, p.17
- Council signs Undertaking after losing childrens' data, p.18
- ID scheme will be first to go, p.19
- Privacy a key focus in EU's Digital Agenda, p.20

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## ICO's warning as number of data breaches reaches thousands

The UK's Information Commissioner's Office is urging organisations to ensure that employees are adequately trained, after the number of breaches involving people's personal information reported to it has soared.

David Smith, Deputy Commissioner, said "we all know that mistakes can happen but, the fact is that human error is behind a high proportion of security breaches that have been reported to us. Extra vigilance is required so that people's personal information does not end up in the wrong hands." The Deputy Commissioner

urges organisations to have clear security and disclosure procedures that staff can understand, to properly implement these and to ensure that they are being followed by staff. "Staff must be adequately trained not just in the value of personal information, but in how to protect it," said Mr Smith.

The ICO has published a table (available from [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)) showing the breakdown of security breaches reported to the ICO between 1998 and 2010. The table gives seven categories of 'reasons' for security

breaches, and shows in which sector the particular type of breach is more common. 'Stolen data/hardware' losses were the most frequently cited cause (accounting for a massive 30% of all reported instances), and that cause was particularly prevalent in the NHS and private sectors. The next two most common reasons for the losses were 'lost data/hardware' and 'disclosed in error' — what is referred to as the 'human error'.

Employment law specialist, Gabriella Wright, said "as staff are responsible for implementing data  
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## DPA's and privacy groups close in around Google

Various EU data protection regulators and privacy groups are investigating Google's potential breach of data protection law after it came to light that the company had been mistakenly collecting WiFi data for the last three years as part of the operation of its controversial service, Street View.

Google was apparently unaware that it had been collecting the data, harvested by Street View cars

from private Wi-Fi networks. The discovery was made after the Data Protection Commissioner in Hamburg, Johannes Casper, asked to audit the company as part of its operations in Germany.

Officials in Spain, France and the Czech Republic are investigating how the WiFi collection has affected its citizens. Google has confirmed it will be retaining data from those countries,

in addition to Germany, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland, at the request of the DPAs in those countries.

The DPAs in the UK, Ireland, Denmark and Austria have requested the deletion of the data, in line with the requirement that personal data should not be kept longer than necessary. The Information Commissioner's Office said it would not "wage war" on Google,  
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