

RJT 10

Lee Taylor

From: Angela Nonis
Sent: 11 May 2006 12:14
To: All Staff
Subject: On behalf of Richard Thomas: Special Report to Parliament

Today we are launching a special report which (for the first time in the history of the Office) I have laid before Parliament using the powers in section 52 of the Data Protection Act. The report highlights a wide-spread 'industry' devoted to the illegal buying and selling of people's personal information, often resulting in significant distress and harm to individuals. The ultimate buyers include journalists, financial institutions, and even local authorities.

The report calls on a range of organisations to help eradicate this unlawful activity and we are publicly and urgently calling on the Lord Chancellor to introduce a prison sentence for convictions obtained under section 55 of the Data Protection Act. We have already received positive encouragement from him and the DCA.

This report is the culmination of several years of hard work by many individuals within the office, especially those involved in investigations and prosecutions. I would like to pay tribute to all those involved for their sheer hard work and determination to halt this illegal trade and fulfil our responsibility do all in our power to help protect people's personal information. Thanks also to everyone who has contributed to the preparation and launch of the report itself.

The report and accompanying press release will be posted on the website tomorrow. I attach a link to a PDF version of the report for you to view

<T:\Comms & ER\Comms Planning\Publications\ICO-Motorman-2404Final.pdf> and hard copies will be available in common areas (some hard copies will be sent out to the regional offices today).

Given that the media are heavily criticised in the report, do not be unduly surprised or concerned if the report is ignored by in the press or if there are attacks on the report, the Act, the ICO or me.

Richard Thomas

Angela Nonis

12/05/2006