

UK public sector organisations need to get serious about data protection, says IT Governance

/EINPresswire.com/ All public sector organisations in the UK are required, by law, to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). Despite this obligation, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has reported that so far nineteen local councils have received monetary penalties totalling £1,885,000 for breaching the Data Protection Act. In December 2012 it was revealed that the Information Commissioner's Office is pressing the Ministry of Justice for stronger powers to audit local councils' data protection compliance, and to do so, if necessary, without consent.

So, how are public sector organisations to respond to this challenge?

[IT Governance](#), a specialist provider of data protection and information security services, advises that training staff in the principles of the DPA will help avoid data breaches and increase staff morale. The company's [DPA Foundation training course](#) is designed to support private and public sector organisations with this task.

In a [news release](#) published on 17 December 2012 the Information Commissioner Christopher Graham was quoted saying: "There is clearly an underlying problem with data protection in local government and we will be meeting with stakeholders from across the sector to discuss how we can support them in addressing these problems."

Alan Calder, CEO of IT Governance, said. "It is worrying that many public sector organisations fail to ensure that their practices associated with processing personal information meet the Data Protection Act requirements. DPA staff awareness continues to be an issue and this is obvious from the data breaches reported by the ICO."

"All Public Sector organisations must ensure that their staff are trained and kept aware of their DPA responsibilities, on a continual basis, or risk heavy fines from the ICO. Moreover, they may lose the trust of the public and suffer consequences that go beyond the financial implications." concludes Calder.

The IT Governance DPA Foundation training course is a one-day session designed to provide you and your team with full knowledge of the eight principles of the DPA. The practical advice will enable you to ensure that all practices associated with processing personal information are implemented and maintained on a continual basis. The course is delivered by a senior DPA

consultant who has been a DPA practitioner since 1998 and who was a co-author of the ACPO Data Protection Audit Manual — a manual used by the majority of UK police forces.

To book onto the next DPA Foundation training course go to www.itgovernance.co.uk/shop/p-525-dpa-foundation-course.aspx or call the IT Governance customer service team on +44 (0) 845 070 1750.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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