

## EU

### EDPS Presents Annual Report for 2016 to European Parliament

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), Giovanni Buttarelli, has presented the [annual EDPS report for 2016](#) to the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Mr Buttarelli stated that the EDPS institution handled more complaints during 2016 than in any other previous year. Mr Buttarelli attributed this increase in complaints primarily to a greater awareness on the part of members of the public as to their rights in relation to personal data. Reflecting on the expanding role of the EDPS, Mr Buttarelli noted that Europol has joined the list of EU institutions which are subject to the oversight of the EDPS. The [written report](#) sets out the EDPS's priorities for 2017. Key areas include contributing to the ongoing review of the ePrivacy Directive in connection with proposals for an ePrivacy Regulation, preparation for the handover from the Article 29 Working Party to the European Data Protection Board and the provision of guidelines on IT governance and cloud computing.

## UK

### ICO Issues Revised Guidance on Political Campaigning

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has [warned all major political parties](#) in the UK of their obligations when contacting potential supporters in the run-up to the General Election on 8 June 2017. As the campaign begins in earnest, the ICO has [issued revised guidance](#) for political parties in response to a rise in complaints from the public about the use of surveys, spam texts and recorded marketing calls for the purpose of promoting parties, their candidates and views. The Information Commissioner, Elizabeth Denham, stated that "if a party or campaign group fails to comply with the law, it may face enforcement action as well as reputational damage to its campaign". With that in mind, the ICO has advised members of the public to understand and agree what they are signing up for before parting with personal information, ask questions about how their information will be used and report any concerns about how their personal information has been handled to the ICO.

### Online Retailer Fined After Cyber-attack Leaves Customer Details Vulnerable

The ICO has [fined an online building products supplier](#) £55,000 for failing to protect its customers' personal information. The website of Construction Materials Online Ltd (CMO) contained a coding error which made it vulnerable to cyber-attack.

A hacker exploited this vulnerability to access the unencrypted details of 669 cardholders. The ICO [found that CMO had breached its obligation as a data controller](#) under the seventh data protection principle of the Data Protection Act 1998 to use appropriate technical and organisational measures to prevent the unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data. In particular, the ICO highlighted the failure of CMO to carry out regular penetration testing on its website and its failure to ensure that passwords for its relevant online accounts were sufficiently complex to resist a "brute-force attack". The ICO considered the breaches to be serious enough to justify the imposition of a monetary penalty of £55,000.

## Contacts



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