

UK

Awards Available from £4 Million Fund for Best Ideas on Tackling Cyber-Crime

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has announced that UK cyber businesses will be able to seek funding to develop ideas to tackle cyber-crime. Grants from a new £4 million fund will be awarded to those businesses with the best ideas. The fund will also be used to appoint a new cyber security small business champion and to pay for projects aimed at driving innovation and growth in the UK's cyber security business sector.

[Press Release](#)

New ICO Smartphone Guidance

The ICO, in conjunction with Ofcom, PhonePayPlus, the OFT/ Competition and Markets Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority, has published two new guidance notes aimed at smartphone users. The first is a list of top tips on how users can use mobile apps safely and securely. The second explains how to best protect data stored on a smartphone.

[ICO news release – Smartphone Security – September 2014](#)

Substantial Award of Compensation for DPA Breaches

The Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland has awarded a claimant substantial compensation of £20,000 for negligence and breach of the seventh data protection principle by his employer. Expert medical evidence confirmed that the claimant, a former anti-terrorist police officer, had suffered a worsening of his symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and developed problems with alcohol following the theft of documents containing the claimant's personal data from the premises of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The court said that the £20,000 award was in respect of the RUC's negligence but that damages for distress caused by Data Protection Act breaches was 'subsumed into the £20,000'. It also awarded an additional nominal sum of £1 in respect of the claimant's distress.

[CP19 v Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland](#)

ICO Updates Model Publication Scheme Guidance

The ICO has revised and updated its model publication scheme guidance for use by public authorities proactively publishing information in accordance with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) obligations. The scheme sets out the framework that public authorities must adopt in order to be FOIA compliant. The ICO confirms that all of its publication scheme documentation has been modernised and presented in a new clearer format.

[ICO Blog – 17 September 2014](#)

EU

New EU Commissioners Tasked with Swift Progress on Data Reforms

New EU Commissioners with responsibility for data protection matters have been appointed by the President-Elect of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. In so called mission letters to the new Commissioners, Juncker explains that he expects rapid progress to be made on the adoption of the Data Protection Regulation, review of Safe Harbor and the so called umbrella agreement between the EU and US. He also states that review of the E-Privacy Directive may be necessary in the near future which could result in further reforms to the laws on cookie use.

Mission letters to the Commissioners – [Vera Jourova](#) , [Günther Oettinger](#) and [Andrus Ansip](#) – September 2014

Article 29 Working Party Statement on Data Retention Directive Ruling

The Article 29 Working Party (WP29) has issued a statement on the European Court of Justice's recent ruling invalidating the Data Retention Directive. The WP29 explains why it supports the ruling but calls on the European Commission to issue guidance on the consequences both for the EU and the national data retention laws of Member States.

[WP29 Statement](#)

MEPs Call for Improved Data Protection to Promote Single Digital Market

MEPs have called for swift progress to be made on removing the obstacles to a fully integrated EU single digital market. MEPs want to see greater promotion of e-commerce, open access to the Internet for users and neutral treatment of service providers in order to create a level playing field for SMEs across Europe trading online. MEPs have also called for “better data protection” which they say “is not yet working”.

[European Parliament News Release – 17 September 2014](#)

International

Settlements with FTC Over Allegations of COPPA Breaches

Yelp Inc and TinyCo Inc have reached a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission over allegations that they collected the personal data of children in breach of the requirements of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). The complaint against Yelp Inc alleges that the online review site collected the personal data of children through the Yelp app without the knowledge or consent of parents. App developer Tinyco Inc is alleged to have collected data via some of its most popular apps without complying with the specific requirements of COPPA. Yelp will pay a US\$450,000 civil penalty and TinyCo a US\$300,000 civil penalty.

[Federal Trade Commission press release – 17 September 2014](#)

US Confirms Defence Systems Successfully Hacked by Chinese Government

A press release from the US Senate Armed Services Committee has revealed that hackers believed to be connected with the Chinese government successfully broke into the computer systems of airlines and military contractors more than 20 times in one year. The systems penetrated concerned arrangements for the global movement of US troops and equipment. In a one year period, the hackers made 50 hacking attempts with 20 attempts being successful.

[United States Senate Committee on Armed Services press release – 17 September 2014](#)

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