

## Germany

### Berlin Data Protection Officer Warns Against Biometrical Face Recognition

In light of a pilot project on the use of devices for biometrical face recognition at a Berlin train station, the Berlin Data Protection Officer, Maja Smoltczyk, has pointed out the severe risks of such techniques [in a press release](#). Unlike conventional video surveillance that only observes passengers, biometrical face recognition can also identify and profile them. Given this technique could be used without the knowledge of the persons concerned, Smoltczyk stated that devices used for biometrical face recognition severely interfered with personality rights and may be used only under very strict conditions.

## UK

### Islington Council Fined due to Parking Ticket Website Security Breach

[The ICO has fined Islington Council](#) a total of £70,000. Its Ticket Viewer system, which allows people to view CCTV image or video of their alleged parking offence, had design defaults, meaning the personal data of up to 89,000 people was at risk of being accessed by others. An investigation revealed that there had been unauthorised access to 119 documents, affecting 71 people. The ICO found that the council should have tested the system both prior to going live and regularly after that and, in the absence of such testing, did not take appropriate technical measures to keep the personal data secure. As such, the council was in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

### ICO Fines TalkTalk for Failing to Protect Customers' Data

Following an investigation, [the ICO found that TalkTalk Telecom Group PLC has breached the Data Protection Act 1998](#) by allowing staff to have access to large quantities of customers' data, which left data open to exploitation by rogue employees. The ICO opened the investigation due to many complaints from customers that they were receiving scam calls. It was found that employees of an IT services company used by TalkTalk exploited its access to TalkTalk's customer portal by accessing the personal data of up to 21,000 people. As a result of TalkTalk's lack of security measures, the ICO issued a fine of £100,000 and Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham stated that "TalkTalk may consider themselves to be the victims here. But the real victims are the 21,000 people whose information was open to abuse by the malicious actions of a small number of people. TalkTalk should have known better and they should have put their customers first."

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