

24th September 2009

**Case Reference Number IRQ0267256**

Dear Mr Holyoake

**Request for Information**

Further to our acknowledgement of 2 September 2009 we are now in a position to provide you with a response to your request for information dated 26 August 2009.

In your online enquiry form you referred to your previous information request to the ICO of 3 November last year, which we dealt with under our reference IRQ02200888, and asked us to provide you with up-to-date figures illustrating *"...the total number of self-reported data breaches from October 2007 to the latest date for which you have records and provide a similar breakdown by type of loss."*

I should explain that the way we have recorded this information has changed slightly since you made your last request, and therefore the figures you have asked for are slightly different from one year to the next. Specifically, in November 2008 we included three new categories of 'nature' of self-reported breach, ie 'Lost in transit', 'Non-secure disposal', and 'Other incidents'.

Therefore, I have set out below the figures we hold for the last year (1 November 2008 to 31 August 2009), and where possible have totalled these with the figures we have already provided for the previous year (1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008), as you have requested.

**The figures for self-reported data breaches dating from 1 November 2008 to 31 August 2009 (ie since your last request) are as follows:**

Data disclosed in error (Often as a result of being misaddressed):  
**78 incidents.**

Lost data/Hardware (Typically lost memory stick etc):  
**71 incidents.**

Stolen data /Hardware (Typically stolen laptops):  
**127 incidents.**

Lost in transit (Typically lost in post or by courier service):  
**24 incidents.**

Technical/Procedural Failure (Typically failure of web site security etc):  
**33 incidents.**

Non secure disposal (Typically confidential waste left in normal waste bins outside premises):  
**12 incidents.**

Other incidents (Tend to be some form of loss):  
**11 incidents.**

**Total incidents = 356**

**The total figures for the number of self reported breaches reported between October 2007 to date (ie end of August 2009) are as follows:**

Data disclosed in error (Often as a result of being misaddressed):  
 $78 + 58 = 136$  incidents.

Lost data/Hardware (Typically lost memory stick etc):  
 $71 + 56 = 127$  incidents.

Stolen data /Hardware (Typically stolen laptops):  
 $127 + 65 = 192$  incidents.

Lost in transit (Typically lost in post or by courier service):  
**24 incidents.**

Technical/Procedural Failure (Typically failure of web site security etc):  
 $33 + 11 = 44$  incidents.

Non secure disposal (Typically confidential waste left in normal waste bins outside premises):  
**12 incidents.**

Other incidents (Tend to be some form of loss):  
**11 incidents.**

**Total incidents = 546**

I would also mention that the ICO website does include a page on 'Data Security Breaches' which can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.ico.gov.uk/about\\_us/news\\_and\\_views/current\\_topics/data\\_security\\_br](http://www.ico.gov.uk/about_us/news_and_views/current_topics/data_security_br)

[eaches.aspx](#)

<[http://www.ico.gov.uk/about us/news and views/current topics/data security breaches.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/about_us/news_and_views/current_topics/data_security_breaches.aspx)>

This page also includes a link to a table illustrating the number and types of data security breach which have been notified to the ICO, which you may find useful and which can also be accessed via this link:

[http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/corporate/research\\_and\\_reports/breach\\_notification\\_spreadsheet\\_apr09.pdf](http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/corporate/research_and_reports/breach_notification_spreadsheet_apr09.pdf)

<[http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/corporate/research\\_and\\_reports/breach\\_notification\\_spreadsheet\\_apr09.pdf](http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/corporate/research_and_reports/breach_notification_spreadsheet_apr09.pdf)>

Unfortunately the current table has not been updated for some time (since April 2009), and therefore the figures I have provided above are more up-to-date and accurate.

I hope that this provides you with the information you require. However, if you are dissatisfied with this response and wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint about how your request has been handled you should write to the Internal Compliance Team at the address below or e-mail

[Internalcompliance@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Internalcompliance@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

<<mailto:Internalcompliance@ico.gsi.gov.uk>>

Your request for internal review should be submitted to us within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the discretion of the Commissioner.

If having exhausted the review process you are not content that your request or review has been dealt with correctly, you have a further right of appeal to this office in our capacity as the statutory complaint handler under the legislation. To make such an application, please write to the Case Reception Team, at the address below or visit the 'Complaints' section of our website to make a Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations complaint online.

A copy of our review procedure is attached.

Yours sincerely

Antonia Swann

Assistant Internal Compliance Manager

Information Commissioner's Office

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www.ico.gov.uk <<http://www.ico.gov.uk>>

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