

Welcome to Year 9 of our Newsletter

Next issue April 2009

The very first issue was October 2000 and since then we have acquired over 5,000 subscribers and published every quarter. Previous issues are archived on our website. This newsletter contains links to other websites. We cannot be responsible for content or availability of other sites. Please read the notice at the end of this newsletter.

2009 sees major developments in Act Now Training. In addition to the training courses we can now offer a range of new services to the sector. Details at <http://www.actnow.org.uk/content/25>

RIPA & RIPSAs helpline

A new dedicated surveillance law helpline to assist busy public sector professionals and in house lawyers dealing with issues under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act (RIPSA).

FOI & EIR helpline

The Act Now FOI Helpline is designed to supplement your internal FOI/EIR expertise. Our experts will guide you through the relevant area of law, discuss possible exemptions and how to deal with any complaints.

DP helpline

A new helpline to assist busy information handlers in their compliance with Data Protection Act and privacy matters. Our experts will talk you through the issues and recommend strategies.

RIPA Forms guidance booklet

Ibrahim Hasan has developed detailed guidance on how to complete the standard Home Office RIPA forms for Directed Surveillance and CHIS. It consists of each form reproduced with detailed notes on how to complete each section.

RIPA Forms CD

You can also buy it in electronic form together with a perpetual multi user license to upload onto your Intranet site or to make as many copies as you need for internal use

Training Pack

A Practical Guide to delivering interesting and relevant training in Data Protection and Freedom of Information. How to design, prepare and deliver a training course. Sample PowerPoint templates, screenshots, videos and images to get you started.

The FOI podcast CD

Every month Ibrahim discusses the latest legal cases and gives his personal views as to how they affect FOI practice. There are also interviews with experts and FOI stakeholders. The first fourteen episodes are now available on a CD so if you never actually listened to them on the web you can now listen in your car on the way to work.

Desktop calendar

We've bought 200 mini calendars for 2009 and are giving them away to anyone who wants one. There are a few of these left and they're completely free. Each month has a suitable cartoon to remind people of DP & security issues (like this image) plus the dates for the month.

Contact us if you would like one.

Further products and new courses are in development. Our website will be updated regularly during January as these come on stream.



Our 2009 programme of courses is now on the web. All our courses have been updated to take account of the latest developments. As well as the usual suspects we have added

- Effective Speaking
- Drafting Data Sharing Protocols

In house Training

Act Now trainers also deliver in-house training at your site. In the last three months we have delivered in house training on FOI, EIR, DPA, Data Sharing and RIPA for many clients including City West Homes, Hart Council, Essex CC, Bristol Council, General Medical Council, Cambridge City Council, Scarborough Council, Immigration Advisory Service, Kalyx Prison Services, Passenger Focus and Caerphilly County Borough Council,

If you would like a quote to bring the trainer to you please use our new online enquiry form: <http://www.actnow.org.uk/content/12>

All our public courses can be delivered at your premises. We can tailor them to suit your needs.

Information Management Consultancy

For Consultancy, Audit & Training see Paul's website <http://www.paulsimpkins.com>

For Legal Advice, Podcasts & Training see Ibrahim's website <http://www.informationlaw.org.uk>

Thank you for your continuing support

Paul & Ibrahim

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

1. Latest Commissioner and Tribunal Decisions

During the second quarter of the financial year 2008/2009 the ICO received 758 complaints under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations.

769 cases were closed;
70 decision notices were issued
27 appeals were received by the Information Tribunal in this period.

<http://www.informationtribunal.gov.uk/pendingappeals.htm>

In September (22) and October (11) 2008 the Information Commissioner published thirty three (33) decisions whilst the Information Tribunal published eleven (11).

This includes decisions on:

- Information held on behalf of coroners
- Section 21 and information held by a court
- Disclosure of information about statutory inquiries
- OFSTED inspectors' notes
- A request for information about Government Information Sharing initiatives
- Disclosure of Employment Tribunal details
- Drug testing methodologies
- When information about residential care homes can be disclosed under section 43

If you would like a full explanation of all the latest FOI decisions then listen to the FOI podcast from Ibrahim Hasan. This is the first service of its kind in the UK and it's completely free. It's even been mentioned in The Times.

Every month Ibrahim discusses the latest legal cases and gives his personal views as to how they affect FOI practice. There are also interviews with experts and FOI stakeholders. The first fourteen episodes are now on Ibrahim's personal website. You can also read the full transcripts.

See: <http://www.informationlaw.org.uk/page10.htm>

2. FOI and OFSTED Inspections

An Ofsted inspection is a worrying time for school staff, students and parents. A recent decision by the Information Commissioner under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) means that the notes of school inspectors must be disclosed to anyone asking for them.

In September 2008, the Information Commissioner ordered Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education (24/09/2008 Ref: FS50123184)) to release a redacted version of the handwritten evidence forms completed during an inspection of St Patrick's Primary School in Bristol. Ofsted had refused to disclose the requested information claiming, amongst other exemptions, section 33 (that disclosure would prejudice its audit function).

The Commissioner ruled that releasing the information would add to public knowledge and understanding about the performance of the school and the outcome of the inspection. He did not consider that the school inspection process would be significantly prejudiced by the disclosure and rejected Ofsted's argument that the school would be less willing to cooperate fully in future inspections, even if negative comments were made public. The Commissioner also found that any inhibition that interviewees would feel, as a result of disclosure, could be reduced through the awareness that their comments will not be directly attributable to them. However he did conclude that personal comments in the forms, by or about third parties, beyond general observations on the school, should be withheld under section 40 (personal data).

3. Section 36, Names and the Qualified Person

Section 36 (2) (c) allows information to be withheld if, in the reasonable opinion of the qualified person, disclosure "would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely to, prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs." This exemption was relied upon by the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) (02/10/2008 Ref: FS50080369) when refusing to disclose the names and addresses of respondents in Employment Tribunal applications. The Commissioner found that the information was held by BERR in its own right and that the exemption at section 36 was engaged but the public interest in maintaining the exemption was outweighed by the public interest in disclosure of the information.

The Commissioner considered that the severity of any prejudice to the conduct of public affairs was minimal in this case. The requested information was previously made available through a public register from 1965 until October 2001. BERR had not provided the Commissioner with any evidence that disclosure of the information sought during this period had any significant adverse consequences. Accordingly he found that there was a very weak, if any, public interest in maintaining the exemption. There was a competing general public interest in disclosure which was strengthened by the more specific public interest in "open justice" so that the details of cases brought before courts and tribunals should normally be in the public domain unless there was good reason for confidentiality.

Interestingly in this decision the Commissioner drew attention to the words of the Information Tribunal in *McIntyre v Information Commissioner and the Ministry of Defence* (4 February 2008) about any investigation into the opinion of the qualified person:

"We would recommend to the Commissioner that in future investigations for complaints where a s.36(2) exemption has been claimed that he should require to see more evidence in relation to the opinion given by the qualified person, such as civil servants' submissions to ministers and their responses."

Those wishing to rely on section 36 must ensure that they keep any briefing notes and e mails to the qualified person just in case they are requested by the Commissioner when deciding whether the qualified person's opinion was reasonable.

4. Information on Residential Homes

Over the last few years, local authorities across the country have had a difficult relationship with local private residential homes. This stems from, amongst other things, the latter's dissatisfaction with the low rates paid by councils for placements within the private sector as compared to the higher rates for placements in local authority run homes. Some home owners' associations have even taken legal action using competition law to try and secure a better deal. Now it seems that their attention is turning to FOI.

In a decision involving Hampshire County Council (08/10/2008), the complainant requested details of the budget and operating costs of the council's residential and nursing care homes. Some items of the requested information were supplied by the council, but it withheld the operating costs by virtue of section 43(2) (commercial interests). The Commissioner rejected the councils' arguments that:

(i) the council sells some of its beds to other care providers – disclosure of the requested information would reveal the means of calculating rates offered to other providers – those rates could then be undercut by competitors

(ii) the council purchases some beds from the independent sector – disclosure would reveal differentials between these purchases and in-house costs which could then lead to a rise in the cost of independent purchases.

(iii) disclosure of staffing costs would allow competitors to undermine the council's position in the labour market.

The Commissioner considered that the council had failed to demonstrate that prejudice to its commercial interests would be likely to result from disclosure of the requested information and that the exemption at s43 as therefore not engaged.

5. Ofsted to release information on child care settings

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has ordered Ofsted to release the names of 29,970 child care managers and their relevant place of employment in England following a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

In making his decision, Steve Wood, Assistant Commissioner, established that the information is held by Ofsted on a database from which the information can be downloaded. Ofsted initially denied holding information relevant to the request on the basis that collating the relevant material would constitute the creation of new information.

The ICO has also carefully considered Ofsted's initial suggestion that disclosing the names would breach the Data Protection Act. The Assistant Commissioner notes that there is a legitimate public interest, especially for parents, to know the identity of managers responsible for the care of children.

The ICO established that releasing the information would not contravene the Data Protection Act. In preparing the decision notice ICO staff gathered evidence that managers' names are already often in the public domain. Directories of day care settings with named managers are already available on the Internet and many child care settings provide staff details on their own websites.

Ofsted must disclose the information within 35 days of the notice or appeal the case to the Information Tribunal.

Ibrahim Hasan is re running his popular workshop on FOI, Contracts and Commercial Confidentiality. This highly practical workshop is designed to examine the key issues around giving access to commercially sensitive and contract information owned by public authorities or received from private sector partners through contracts and tenders. We will look at all the latest decisions from Information Commissioner and the Information Tribunal on this topic. This course is a must for FOI officers, lawyers and procurement staff.

See the flyer: <http://www.actnow.org.uk/media/flyers/foicc.pdf>

6. FOI Update Articles

Ibrahim Hasan writes regular columns in the Law Society Gazette, IRRV magazines and the Records Management Society magazine reviewing recent FOI decisions. His latest article is on FOI and Shared Services.

<http://www.informationlaw.org.uk/page13.htm>

Act Now Training is also running a workshop series where these decisions will be discussed in detail by Ibrahim Hasan and Tim Turner.

Click here: http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/Freedom_of_Information

7. ICO FOI Guidance

Earlier this year the ICO embarked on an extensive programme to refresh freedom of Information guidance for individuals and public authorities.

The list below sets out what has been produced or updated since the last newsletter

New guidance

Charging a fee under FOI <http://tiny.cc/SYa2o>

Using the fees regulations <http://tiny.cc/Wj4fo>

Model Publication schemes, definition documents <http://tiny.cc/V0kV5>

Notes for Parish & community councils <http://tiny.cc/Oplyj>

Redacting & extracting information <http://tiny.cc/uOqY1>

Destruction of information <http://tiny.cc/ZN6A5>

Complaint & Investigations <http://tiny.cc/P3e3m>

When should names be disclosed <http://tiny.cc/3LNqO>

Minutes & Agendas <http://tiny.cc/n3eB2>

Updated guidance

Routinely publishing environmental information <http://tiny.cc/Z5yFe>

Time for Compliance <http://tiny.cc/SHVu7>

Means of Communication <http://tiny.cc/r3fec>

Duty to confirm or deny <http://tiny.cc/pWyrR>

Relations within the UK <http://tiny.cc/6Omaw>

The Economy <http://tiny.cc/Vy2gM>

Policy Formulation, Ministerial Communications etc. <http://tiny.cc/5Jsm2>

Provided in confidence <http://tiny.cc/wOabJ>

Effective conduct of public affairs <http://tiny.cc/CgayK>

What is environmental information <http://tiny.cc/d3Txj>

EIR - advice and assistance <http://tiny.cc/kKekg>

Access to information about the deceased. <http://tiny.cc/08yrX>

8. Conducting an Information Audit

Information auditing is a method increasingly used in the public and private sector to assess the information assets held by an organisation. Information audits will feed into the development of information strategies related to information and knowledge management, legislative compliance, and records management. This workshop introduces delegates to the concept of

information auditing using scenarios and examples. It is suitable for both public and private sector delegates and will assist with compliance with Freedom of Information, Data Protection and the Environmental Information legislation. Our speaker, Mike Swain, of Liverpool John Moores University, is an authority in this area. <http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/254>

9. Publication schemes for authorities merging or undergoing boundary changes

The ICO has received enquiries from authorities that are merging or undergoing boundary changes on 1 April 2009, asking whether they need to adopt the new publication scheme. The answer is yes they do. We expect all existing bodies to comply with legal requirements by adopting and operating in accordance with the approved model publication scheme from 1st January 2009. <http://tiny.cc/cyG8T>

10. Freedom of information training DVD from the ICO

The ICO is producing a free DVD to help organisations respond to freedom of information requests. Based in Upham Downs Council it is 13 minutes long and has some reasonably well known actors going through the FOI Act. To receive your copy please email a request to: robert.parker@ico.gsi.gov.uk.

11. FOI and Schools

Act Now is repeating its very successful DP/FOI seminars for schools throughout the UK. These have now been revised and updated. So far we have trained over 1500 teachers and school staff. The feedback has been very positive. We have added new dates and venues and all our courses are now full day. This makes them extremely good value for money.

For more details see our website: <http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/Schools>

If you would like to make a block booking or you want the event to be held in your area let us know. We also run course for schools on child protection law for schools. All our schools courses can be delivered in house as briefing sessions, conferences and inset days.

12. Scottish Commissioner Newsletter

Read Kevin Dunion's latest FOIA newsletter here: [http:// www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)

Courses in Edinburgh. Act Now has a full program in Scotland on DPA, FOISA, RM and RIPSA

http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/city_Edinburgh

13. FOI revealing food inspection reports.

After years of inspecting premises where food was served and not telling people the results one of the major results of FOI is that we are now staring to see these reports. This site has a mass of information on it. Check out your area. <http://www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk/>

14. The annual JISC infoNet, Universities UK and GuildHE survey

Every year there's an analysis of requests received in the HE sector and further comment.

<http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/foi-survey/2007>

DATA PROTECTION

15. More Security Breaches

The private details of thousands of children were found on a memory stick dropped by a council worker. The device, which was found by a member of the public, was reported missing but the employee told Leeds City Council it did not contain sensitive information. In fact it included the names, dates of birth, ethnicity and contact details for about 5,000 nursery-age children living in the Leeds area.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7771787.stm>

Our revised Information Security workshop is a must for all data protection/IT professionals. The first course is at the end of January and you need to be quick to get a place. Ring 01924 451054 to book.

<http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/234>

This revised workshop is facilitated by legal and information security expert (Andrea Simmons) and is designed to cut through the jargon and media hype. It will give delegates the knowledge to write their own action plan for bringing information security into their organisation. The legal and regulatory regime will be discussed as well as the practical options to prevent loss, damage and destruction of confidential/personal information.

16. NEW ICO Guidance

The ICO issues guidance in the form of good practice notes, 'It's your information' notices and technical guidance. Since the last newsletter in July the ICO has published the following:

New guidance to help social care staff that regularly handle requests for social services records under the Data Protection Act. <http://tiny.cc/HUTjG>

New guidance to help local authority staff who regularly handle requests for local authority housing records. <http://tiny.cc/bWG8U>

New guidance to help councils handle requests for details of their meetings. <http://tiny.cc/8ouMJ>

17. New powers for the ICO

The Information Commissioner will be able to perform spot-checks on government departments and public sector bodies to make sure they are complying with the Data Protection Act under new plans announced by the Government yesterday. Read this view on it.

<http://blog.iwr.co.uk/2008/12/new-powers-for.html>



Deputy Commissioner David Smith said the ICO generally welcomed the Ministry's proposals. "We particularly welcome the government's commitment to legislate to enable the ICO to inspect central government departments and other public sector bodies' compliance with the Data Protection Act without always requiring consent," he said. "We would have preferred to have this power to undertake audits extended to private sector organisations as well," said Smith.

The new powers will be finalised when parliamentary time allows. Keep watching

Much of this will be in the Coroners & Justice Bill which can be viewed at <http://www.commonleader.gov.uk/output/Page2655.asp> although there's not much about the commissioner in this early note.

18. New Data Sharing Powers

The powers of Government to share data will be increased under new laws announced yesterday. Legislation will introduce a fast-track procedure to allow data sharing whenever "a robust case" can be made for sharing, said a Ministry of Justice report. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/reviews/datasharing-intro.htm>

There is an alternative view

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/11/26/data_review_more_powers/

We are re running our popular workshops, entitled "Multi Agency Information Sharing", which will guide you through the maze of legislation in this area. We will examine the Data Protection Act, the Human Rights Act and the latest cases and guidance in this area. With the introduction of Entitlement/Identity Cards, One Stop Shops, the Contact Point, Biometric Passports etc. information sharing will be even more of a hot topic.

See the flyer: <http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/236>

19. Drafting Information Sharing Protocols

The death of Baby P, Contact Point, ID Cards and other media headlines mean that information sharing is at the top of the public sector agenda. The days of public sector organisations working in silos are over for good. Information Sharing Protocols are an important tool for professionals sharing data for crime prevention, child protection, fraud checking and data matching purposes.

A protocol can be the bedrock for a new service or a new relationship. It can define or strengthen joint working and can resolve data sharing problems. This practical course will guide you through the protocol drafting process from consultation through to drafting and execution. It will help you to get the maximum benefit from your protocols. This is an essential course for all those involved with information law and information management within the public sector. Those who have previously attended (or will be attending) our course on Information Sharing Law course will particularly benefit See The Flyer: <http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/275>

20. It's Data Protection day at the end of January

And once again European countries will be celebrating the fact by organising a huge range of activities (or not). There are rumours of an ICO PR stunt. Watch out! <http://tiny.cc/WC1sy>

21. The National Staff dismissal Register

Imagine a register of all people who had been dismissed from a job for dishonesty or fraud. Would you use it? To some it represents an Orwellian nightmare of hyper-surveillance to others simply a tool to help employers keep their workplaces fair and lawful. So just what is it about the National Staff Dismissal Register that gets people so hot under the collar? And why do we need one in the first place? There are many issues here and you may be asked about it. Use the following links to gain an insight into it. Ask yourself the question "Would the Commissioner give this his approval?"

http://www.creativeportal.org/news/stories/hlw_290508.html

http://www.hicom.co.uk/businesssolutions/literature/nsdr_datasheet.pdf

<http://tiny.cc/oTb3J>

SURVEILLANCE LAW and PRIVACY

22. RIPA Guidance

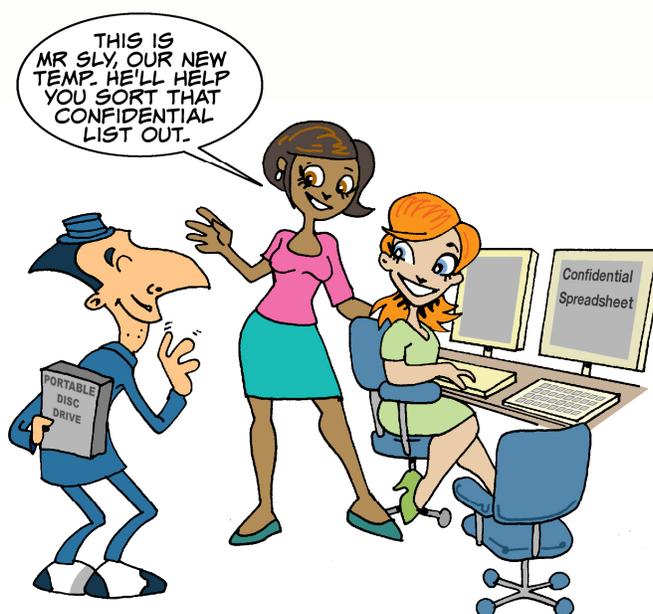
Buy Ibrahim's Popular RIPA Part 2 Forms Guidance

Many of you have engaged us to do in house training on surveillance law and Part 2 of RIPA. A common theme running through the questions our trainers are asked, is the lack of clarity and guidance around completing the RIPA forms for authorising Directed Surveillance and use/conduct of a Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS).

Poor form filling is a standard criticism made by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) when doing inspections of local authorities. Up to now there has been no published guidance on how to complete the forms properly. This is essential if officers want to take advantage of the RIPA Shield (section 27 defence).

With this in mind, Ibrahim Hasan has developed detailed guidance on how to complete the standard Home Office RIPA forms for Directed Surveillance and CHIS. It consists of each form reproduced with detailed notes on how to complete each section. All the forms are included from application, through to review, renewal and cancellation.

The guidance is available as a hard copy for £99 plus vat. You can also buy it in electronic form together (£499 plus vat) with a perpetual multi user license to upload onto your Intranet site internal use only) or to make as many copies as you need for internal use. You can also amend and customise the guidance to suit your organisation's specific surveillance operations.



www.sidsly.com Sid Sly © M.Hague/S.Harrison 2008

If you would like to receive a hard copy for inspection, please contact us with your name and address. We will then send you a hard copy which you may decide to buy or return within two weeks. If you are constantly having to answer routine queries about the RIPA forms from client departments, you may wish to let them know about this.

Act Now continues to be the market leader in training in all aspects of RIPA and surveillance law. Please click below to see our full range of courses

http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/RIPA/Surveillance_Law

Ibrahim Hasan can also provide legal advice in this area (ih@informationlaw.org.uk)

We are also the UK's leading providers of in house training on RIPA and surveillance law. If you would like to discuss your training needs please email us on info@actnow.org.uk

This is a difficult time for those who are doing surveillance governed by RIPA. Increasingly the media and consequently the public are scrutinising what is being done. If Act Now can assist in any way with your RIPA compliance program please do not hesitate to get in touch.

One Day Designated Person/ Investigator Workshop

<http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/239>

This is a practical workshop on how to access communications data under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). It is essential that those who are seeking to use these powers as well as those who are authorising their use (Designated Persons), have a good understanding of the law and practice in this area. This workshop will examine the latest Code of Practice and Home Office forms/guidance in this complex area and help your organisation prepare for inspections by the Interception of Communications Commissioners. This is an interactive course with plenty of opportunity for questions, discussion and for working through case studies and exercises.

We are also still running the two day SPoC accreditation workshop which has a 100% pass rate.

<http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/241>

23. Communications Data and RIPA

Those who have previously attended our RIPA/ SPOC course will be interested in this story.

Rules forcing internet companies to keep details of every e-mail sent in the UK are a waste of money and an attack on civil liberties, say critics. From March all internet service providers (ISPs) will by law have to keep information about every email sent or received in the UK for a year. Previously ISPs had signed up to a voluntary code of practice. Human rights group Liberty says it is worried what will happen next. The Home Office insists the data, which does not include e-mails' content, is vital for crime and terror inquiries. Some three billion e-mails are thought to be sent each day in the UK. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7819230.stm>

Act Now continues to offer its very popular courses on RIPA and Accessing Communications Data. We are a Home Office accredited SPoC training provider. The next course is in London in April. See http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/RIPA/Surveillance_Law

OTHER SUBJECTS

24. Training Pack from Act Now.

If you've been asked to deliver training in DP or FOI and need some help getting started we have developed a training pack that includes tips on how to design, prepare for and deliver such training. This is available on a CD with a licence to re-use within your organisation for just £99.

These are the chapter headings

1. Author biography
2. How to use this document
3. Starting out
4. Designing a presentation
5. The idiot's guide to powerpoint
6. Handling the technology
7. Talking the Talk
8. Paperwork
9. Become a hoarder
10. Useful websites

In the accompanying folders there are samples of images, screenshots, handouts etc and some sample powerpoint files for you to re-use. Contact us for more details or to order a pack. Taking our course in Effective Speaking and with this pack you should be able to deliver training for your organisation. Or alternatively you can ask us to...

25. A new course

Islam and Muslims: Dispelling Myths and Misunderstandings

<http://www.actnow.org.uk/courses/174>

This is proving to be one of our most popular courses. It is being run all over the UK in 2009.

In the light of recent events and media stories it is more important than ever for the public and private sectors to understand the belief system of more than two million people in the UK i.e. Muslims. What makes them tick? Just how different are they? What is the difference between the Islamic belief and culture? Should we continue to rely on the media for our knowledge of Islam?

If your organisation employs Muslims you may wish to understand their needs better. For example the obligation to pray, fast and for women to wear a hijab. Having an understanding of Islam will assist in the planning of services to all sections of the community. It will also assist in achieving diversity and community cohesion.

This practical course, led by an expert in the field, will give delegates a basic understanding of Islam and Muslims to help them do their job better. The aim will be to help avoid stereotypes and allow constructive engagement with Muslims. The focus is not on theological debate but on sound practical information. No subject will be off limits; no question will be avoided.

26. What is badware?

Badware is software that fundamentally disregards a user's choice regarding how his or her computer will be used. You may have heard of some types of badware, such as spyware, malware, or deceptive adware.

Common examples of badware include free screensavers that surreptitiously generate advertisements, malicious web browser toolbars that take your browser to different pages than the ones you expect, or keylogger programs that can transmit your personal data to malicious parties. <http://stopbadware.org/>

27. An interesting website

The institute for interactive research has developed a website and some resources which do not require you to click a mouse. Explore. <http://www.dontclick.it/>

28. A few silly stories (for light relief)

How big is the internet?

Probably an apocryphal story but a web design company reports one of their Customer's asking: "I want to download the Internet. Do I need a bigger hard disk?"

<http://www.w3schools.com/downloadwww.htm>

The perils of using email.

When officials asked for the Welsh translation of a road sign, they thought the reply was what they needed. Unfortunately, the email response to Swansea council said in Welsh: "I am not in the office at the moment. Send any work to be translated".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7702913.stm>

Massive database left on doorstep.

You may think losing a few hundred names and addresses is serious but this case involves nearly the entire population. <http://tiny.cc/bKovz>

Disclaimer.

The contents of this newsletter are meant for you to consider on the basis of general discussion and not as advice or expert opinion (legal or otherwise).

You are advised to obtain professional legal advice on specific issues. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from you acting or refraining from acting on any information contained in this newsletter is excluded.

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