Information sharing and the Coroners & Justice Bill

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Information Commissioner's Office

Information Commissioner's Office

- What is the ICO?
- Information sharing
- The Coroners and Justice Bill

Information Commissioner's Office

What is the ICO?

- Independent - responsible to Parliament not Government
- Data Protection Act 1998: rights and responsibilities
- Freedom of Information Act 2000: access to official information

Information Commissioner's Office

ICO resources & activities

- 306 full-time staff
- £19.5M budget
- 1.93M website visits
- 113,000 helpline calls
- 25,500 DP cases
- 3,100 FoI cases
- Advice, guidance, enforcement
- HQ in Wilmslow

Information Commissioner's Office

Information sharing

- Convenience: tell them once
- Efficiency: no re-collection of same info
- Better services: ‘personalisation’
- Crime detection / fraud prevention / public safety
- People want and expect it?

Information Commissioner's Office

Data protection - a top public concern

• Preventing crime	88%
• Improving education	84%
• *Protecting personal information*	*83%*
• NHS (National Health Service)	83%
• Equal rights	81%
• Protecting freedom of speech	80%
• National security	78%
• Environmental issues	74%

ICO
Information Commissioner's Office

Coroners and Justice Bill 1

- Information sharing:
  - Controversial sharing clauses withdrawn
  - Statutory information sharing CoP remains
  - Practical guidance on data sharing, promotion of good practice
  - Framework CoP for information sharing (2007)

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Coroners and Justice Bill 2

- Assessment Notices (audit without consent): government departments, public bodies, ‘designated’ private sector
- Statutory assessments code of practice: nature of inspections, publication of reports
- Sanctions for non-compliance with an assessment notice (grounds for warrant)

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Coroners and Justice Bill 3

- Other provisions
  - Power to require information
  - Data controllers' registration
  - Warrant for entry and inspection
- Due for Royal Assent imminently

Information Commissioner's Office

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