

Sent via email

Information Commissioner's Office – ICO

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Emma

Data Breach | UK GDPR Complaint

1. Our previous interactions (FATCA)

- As you know, for years I have been raising concerns about the ability of government agencies to protect personal data. Indeed, Jenny's 2019 complaint against HMRC in relation to FATCA (revived on [31 July 2024](#)) remains outstanding, with no communication whatsoever from your office for over a year, notwithstanding the [96-page long decision](#) from the Belgian data protection authorities (referred in this [letter to you](#)) and the subsequent referral to the European Court of Justice ([C-804/25](#)).
- Separately, I and other legal commentators, have been expressing growing concerns about the ICO's unwillingness to hold government agencies to account, including in relation to the Commissioner's [vexed performance](#) in relation to the MoD's data breach that put the lives of thousands of people at risk.

2. Companies House

- Recently, I was forced to use Companies House's verification services, notwithstanding my existing misgivings about the UK's data protection and regulatory framework.
- I now find out from [newspaper reports](#) that sensitive personal data of company directors have been exposed to a data breach.
- Companies House's reductive explanation of a "glitch" falls below the standard expected from a government agency and is unacceptable, because Companies House has a statutory duty to protect the safety of personal data (Art 5(1)(f) UK GDPR - "integrity and confidentiality"). This reflects a basic data protection principle.
- I will, of course, write to Companies House, but given the existing record I should like to ask you what, if anything, the ICO is doing in relation to this data breach, so that I can calibrate my approach accordingly.

FINANCIAL TIMES
**Companies House
suspends online filing
after glitch put personal
data at risk**

Bug on UK's official corporate register allowed potential fraudsters to change personal details and upload accounts



Companies House has been forced to close its online filing service after a glitch allowed members of the public to view and change directors' personal details, potentially exposing them to fraud or other criminal activity.

- Has Companies House referred itself to the ICO?
- Has Companies House notified affected parties (because I haven't).
- Is the ICO contemplating engaging its powers under Art. 58 UK GDPR to restore public confidence in Companies House, and if so, how?

Best regards,

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