

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

SUPERVISORY POWERS OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

ENFORCEMENT NOTICE

To: Poundstretcher Ltd

Of: Trident Business Park, Leeds Road, Huddersfield, HD2 1UA

1. Poundstretcher Ltd is a "data controller" as defined in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 ("DPA").
2. Section 4(4) of the DPA provides that, subject to section 27(1), it is the duty of a data controller to comply with the data protection principles in relation to all personal data with respect to which he is the data controller.
3. The Information Commissioner ("Commissioner") has considered a request for assessment made under section 42 of the DPA by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
("the complainant").
4. The request for assessment concerned the failure by the data controller to respond to a subject access requests made by the complainant on 3 and 10 March 2016 (copy attached) in compliance with the requirements of section 7 of the DPA.
5. The Commissioner has considered the issues arising out of the request for assessment referred to in paragraph 3 above in addition to the

further correspondence entered into with the data controller concerning this case.

6. The Commissioner has considered the data controller's compliance with the provisions of the DPA in light of this matter. The relevant provisions of the DPA are the Sixth Data Protection Principle and section 7.
7. The Sixth Data Protection Principle provides at Part I of Schedule 1 to the DPA that:

"Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under this Act."

8. Paragraph 8(a) of Part II of Schedule 1 to the DPA further provides that:

"A person is to be regarded as contravening the sixth principle if, but only if, he contravenes section 7 by failing to supply information in accordance with that section."

9. Section 7 of the DPA states:

"(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section and to sections 8, 9 and 9A, an individual is entitled –

(a) to be informed by any data controller whether personal data of which that individual is the data subject are being processed by or on behalf of that data controller,

(b) if that is the case, to be given by the data controller a description of –

(i) the personal data of which that individual is the subject,

(ii) the purposes for which they are being or are to be processed, and

(iii) the recipients or classes of recipients to whom they are or may be disclosed,

(c) to have communicated to him in an intelligible form –

(i) the information constituting any personal data of which that individual is the data subject, and

(ii) any information available to the data controller as to the source of those data, ...”

10. The Commissioner is of the view that the data controller has contravened the Sixth Data Protection Principle in that, contrary to section 7, it has failed to inform the complainant, without undue delay, whether personal data of which this individual was the data subject were being processed by or on behalf of the data controller and, where that was the case, failed, without undue delay, to have communicated to him in an intelligible form such information as may constitute such personal data.

The Commissioner considered, as she is required to do under section 40(2) of the DPA when deciding whether to serve an Enforcement Notice, whether any contravention has caused or is likely to cause any person damage or distress. The Commissioner takes the view that damage or distress to the complainant is likely as a result of him being denied the opportunity of correcting inaccurate personal data about him, which may be processed by the data controller, because he is unable to establish what personal data are being processed within the statutory timescale.

11. In view of the matters referred to above the Commissioner hereby gives notice that, in exercise of her powers under section 40 of the DPA, he requires that the data controller shall within 30 days of the date of this Notice take steps to:

Inform the complainant whether the personal data processed by the data controller includes personal data of which the complainant is the data subject and shall supply him with a copy of any such personal data so processed in accordance with the requirements of section 7 of the DPA and the Sixth Data Protection Principle in that respect, subject only to the proper consideration and application of any exemption from, or modification to, section 7 of the DPA provided for in or by virtue of Part IV of the DPA which may apply.

12. There is a right of appeal against this Notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights), part of the General Regulatory Chamber. Information about appeals is set out in the attached Annex 1.

Dated the 5th day of September 2016

Signed:

Stephen Eckersley
Head of the Enforcement Department
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ANNEX 1

RIGHTS OF APPEAL AGAINST DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER

1. Section 48 of the Data Protection Act 1998 gives any person upon whom an enforcement notice has been served a right of appeal to the (First-tier Tribunal) General Regulatory Chamber (the "Tribunal") against the notice.

2. If you decide to appeal and if the Tribunal considers:-

a) that the notice against which the appeal is brought is not in accordance with the law; or

b) to the extent that the notice involved an exercise of discretion by the Commissioner, that he ought to have exercised his discretion differently,

the Tribunal will allow the appeal or substitute such other decision as could have been made by the Commissioner. In any other case the Tribunal will dismiss the appeal.

3. You may bring an appeal by serving a notice of appeal on the Tribunal at the following address:

GRC & GRP Tribunals
PO Box 9300
Leicester
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: GRC@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

The notice of appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 days of the date on which the enforcement notice was sent.

4. The statutory provisions concerning appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (General Regulatory Chamber) are contained in sections 48 and 49 of, and Schedule 6 to, the Data Protection Act 1998, and Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (General Regulatory Chamber) Rules 2009 (Statutory Instrument 2009 No. 1976 (L.20)).