



## EIEC and Data Protection Scams

It is nearly a year since we alerted our clients to the Data Protection scams, but now that we are hearing of a fresh round of mailshots it seems a good idea to repeat our advice, which comes after the following EIEC warning.

### EIEC

We can report on a new scam coming from The European Institute for Economy and Commerce EEIG (**EIEC**) who are currently sending out 'official looking' invoices requiring company details to be entered into their database at a cost of £188.50. Needless to say, no UK company is required to submit this information which has been taken directly from the Companies House database, and which is available free of charge to anyone who needs it.

**EIEC** purports to be a Belgian based company, but a search on the Internet reveals that they started operations in France, from where several Chambers of Commerce are warning their members against this scam calling it a fraud, and saying that the Institute does not exist.

Competetex clients can be certain that notification of company details is carried out and up-dated by Competetex to Companies House, the Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise as required by UK law.

Data supplied to banks and interim providers is given only with the client's consent and *no other information has to be supplied to any other bodies.*

An example of an **EIEC** invoice is shown here:

	EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMY AND COMMERCE INSTITUTO EUROPEO PARA LA ECONOMIA Y EL COMERCIO INSTITUT EUROPEEN POUR L'ECONOMIE ET LE COMMERCE EUROPÄISCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFT UND HANDEL	REGISTER N° 1217207 DATE 18/09/2003						
<p>ORCHARD HOUSE PARK LANE REIGATE SURREY RH2 8JX</p>		<p>EIEC EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMY AND COMMERCE EEIG Division: LM Rue Capouillet 14 21 BE-1060 BRUSSELS</p> <p>VAT No: BE477555051 RUEG Brussels No: 390 Call Centre: 02759 87 18 (09.30 to 11.30)</p> <p>Offer: 768207</p>						
<p>REGISTRATION IN THE EIEC REGISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY Extract from the register / Publication proposal</p>								
Name & Registered Office :		ORCHARD HOUSE Status :Active PARK LANE REIGATE SURREY RH2 8JX						
<p>Company No. : <del>04407520</del> Date of Incorporation : 21/06/2000 Country of Origin : United Kingdom Company Type: Private Limited Company Nature Of Business (SIC(92)): 7414 - Business &amp; management consultancy Accounting Reference Date : 31/12 Last Accounts Made Up To : 31/12/2001 (DORMANT) Next Accounts Due : 31/10/2003 Last Return Made Up To : 31/03/2003 Next Return Due : 28/04/2004</p>								
<p><small>The Institute is not responsible for the accuracy of the data recorded. Any removals or modifications should be reported to our institute. Any adjustment must include the number of the above-mentioned offer. Payment by cheque: enclose the detachable coupon below. Fees for registration in the EIEC register for commerce and industry. Registration is not obligatory. It is a private register. For more info see website. By paying the amount below you agree to this offer as well as to the exactness of the name and data in the extract from the register above.</small></p>								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>TOTAL €</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>REGISTRATION FEES</td> <td>21 % (BE477555051)</td> <td>188.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			DESCRIPTION	VAT	TOTAL €	REGISTRATION FEES	21 % (BE477555051)	188.50
DESCRIPTION	VAT	TOTAL €						
REGISTRATION FEES	21 % (BE477555051)	188.50						
<p>REGISTER NUMBER TO REMEMBER: 1217207</p>								
Bank	IBAN	SWIFT						
Axa, Brussels	BE34 7512 0115 3990	AXABBE22						
<p>YOU MUST ENCLOSE THIS WITH YOUR CHEQUE PAYMENT OBLIGATORY BY PAYMENT WITH CHEQUE: <b>DATE AND SIGNATURE</b></p>								
<p>MAKE OUT YOUR CHEQUE TO <b>EIEC EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMY AND COMMERCE EEIG</b>, ADDRESS: 9 TO 21 RUE CAPOUILLET, BE - 1060 BRUSSELS</p>								

## Data Protection

This scam revolves around a document that arrives in the post from 'Crown Data Collection Enforcement Agency' and other similar names (see below) and purports to be a warning under the Data Protection Act 1998 that immediate registration is necessary and that failure to comply constitutes a criminal offence. The document is well designed to give the impression that it comes from an official body. It goes on to say that they will assist with the registration which will cost £95 (we understand there are others who charge up to £135).

The true cost of registering is only £35 and probably only a few of our clients need to be registered at all. To find out if you need to register go to:

<http://www.dpr.gov.uk/downloads/handbook.doc>

If you do need to register, it is a simple matter and you can do this online at:

<http://www.dpr.gov.uk/cgi-bin/dprproc?page=7.html>

Here is a list of rogue companies issued by the Information Commissioner some of which send enforcement 'collectors' to businesses:

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**Gary McNeish t/a Data Protection Act Registration Service**

51 Brackley, St Georges, Manchester M15 4FS

An interim Injunction was obtained against Gary McNeish by the OFT on 25th June 2002. A final Injunction was obtained against Gary McNeish by the OFT on 12 November 2002. The injunctions were obtained under The Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations (1988).

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**Data Protection Agency Services Ltd/Michael Sullivan/Data Collection Enforcement Agency**

Bold Court, 2A Bold Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR9 0BB

**Data Protection Agency Services Ltd**

37-39 Shakespeares St, Southport PR8 5AB

A final injunction was obtained against Data Protection Agency Services Ltd and Michael Sullivan by the OFT on 30th May 2002. The injunction was obtained under The Control of Misleading Advertisement Regulations (1988). Companies House have negotiated a name change. The company changed its name to Data Services (North West) Limited on 20/08/02.

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**Data Protection Agency Registrations/Finbar Fox**

2 Ambleside Road, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 2LJ

The OFT have negotiated an assurance regulating the advertisements by this organisation.

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**Data Protection Agency Registrations/Chris Yewdall**

Criterion House, 3 Thorngrove Ave, Baguley, Manchester M23 9PQ

The OFT have negotiated an assurance regulating the advertisements by this organisation.

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The Office of Fair Trading has received complaints regarding the following organisations which they are considering:-

**Data Protection Enforcement Agency (Data Protection Registration Service)**

Mulain Centre, Union St, Chester CH1 1QP

**Data Protection Agency Registration Services Ltd**

Unit 5, Omega House, Capital Business Park, Kirkby Bank Rd, Kirkby, Liverpool L33 7SY

**Data Protection Agency Registration Services**

Omega House, Lloyds Buildings, 126-128 Stanford St Central, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6AG

**Data Protection Agency Services**

Padgate House, 19a Princess Ave, Padgate, Warrington WA1 3TS

**Data Protection Agency Services**

Hyde House, 193 Market Street, Hyde Cheshire SK14 1HF

**Crown Data Collection Enforcement**

Hyde House, 193 Market Street, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 1HF

**The Department of Company Registration**

140 Ashley Crescent, London SW11 5QZ

**Data Protection Bureau**

PO Box 10899, Birmingham B29 6ZR

**Data Protection Registration Agency**

Rugby House, 23 Rugby Drive, Aintree, Liverpool L10 8JU

**Data Protection Registration Agency**

Hyde House, 6 Plain Pitt St, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 4QL

**Data Protection Agency Services**

4 Haslow Place, Blackpool FY3 7PE

**Data Protection Agency Services**

Harrington House, 90 Harrington Rd, South Norwood, London SE25 4LY

**Data Protection Agency Services**

Fleetwood House, Fleetwood Pier, Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 7BH

**Data Protection Agency Services**

Summerseat House, 39 Summerseat, Liverpool L3 6HB

**Data Protection Corporation**

PO BOX 56, Guisborough TS14 6WT

**Data Protection Agency Services**

Atlantic House, 1st Floor, 56 Ramsbottom Street, Crewe CW1 3AN

**Data Protection Enforcement Agency**

Hilton House, 71-73 Chapel Street, Manchester M3 5BZ

**Data Protection Agency Services**

64 Brownley Road, Smallthorne, Stoke-On-Trent ST6 1PY

**Data Protection Agency Services**

Sherbourne House, 80 Sherbourne Road, Blackpool FY1 2PQ

**Data Registration (Renewals)**

Hilton House, 71-73 Chapel Street, Manchester M3 5BZ

**DPAS (Renewals)**

30 Myers Road West, Crosby L23 0RU

**Data Protection Agency Services, DPA Enforcement Section**

Ferrars House, 94 Ferrars Road, Sheffield S9 1RY