

# ICO highlights importance of secure destruction of data

Submitted by: Insight Marketing Concepts

Thursday, 7 June 2012

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BeMac could have prevented breach of Data Protection Act

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust could have avoided a fine of £325,000 if they had engaged the services of BeMac Secure Data Services (<http://www.bemac.com/products/secure-data-services>).

The Brighton and Sussex Trust was fined by the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) following a breach of the Data Protection Act.

The data breach occurred when an individual engaged by the Trust's IT service provider, removed at least 252 of the approximate 1,000 hard drives they were supposed to destroy from the hospital during their five days on site.

Peter Alderson, Managing Director BeMac, commenting on the ICO fine, "A fine of this magnitude illustrates just how seriously the ICO approaches data protection and how important it is for organisations to get it right. BeMac provides a comprehensive, innovative and quality assured service for the secure management and secure destruction of optical, magnetic and printed data, and is well placed to ensure that other organisations do not meet the same fate".

The breach could have been avoided had the Trust used BeMac Secure Data Services (<http://www.bemac.com/products/secure-data-services>) as the company provides a comprehensive quality assured service for the secure management and data destruction of optical, magnetic and printed data.

Their secure data destruction services are already widely used by Government, MoD, NHS, banks and many other institutions that need their protectively marked data or sensitive IT equipment to be accounted for and disposed of with no risk to security.

Secure data destruction can occur either on or off-site and all operations are supported by a full audit trail. Using Security Cleared staff as well as Government approved destruction facilities and equipment which is fully accredited for compliance to HMG IA Standard Number 5.

About BeMac Secure Data Services:

BeMac Secure Data Services is a Barron McCann company providing a portfolio of approved security services. BeMac was the first company in the UK to gain Government/CESG certification to provide fully-managed and on site data destruction services for 'end of life' computer equipment and protectively marked data up to and including HM Government 'Top Secret' (BIL6). BeMac Secure Data Services provides a secure data recovery service as a safe and reliable means of recovering sensitive or protectively-marked data from failed or damaged hard disks. The service offers a fast, 48hr assessment and provides for re-loading data on to a new drive, while securely destroying the original failed item. For more information, visit [www.bemac.com](http://www.bemac.com) (<http://www.bemac.com>)

Photographs:

Photographs of Peter Alderson, Managing Director BeMac are available upon request.

For more information, please contact:

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