

NEWS RELEASE

Leading Vetting Agency Powerchex sign up to the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise

Pre-employment screening specialists reaffirm their commitment to data protection.

London, June 23rd, 2009. Leading employee screening firm Powerchex have strengthened their commitment to data protection by signing up to the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise.

The initiative was launched by the Information Commissioner in January 2009 in response to recent reports of major data losses by organisations and is designed to improve compliance with the Data Protection Act and help restore public trust and confidence in those who are entrusted with their personal information.

The Information Commissioner is urging the heads of organisations to sign up and commit to the principles outlined in the pledge to prove that they are dedicated to protecting data. So far senior leaders from organisations such as T-Mobile, British Gas, BT, the NHS Information Centre, Royal Mail and Vodafone, have all signed up.

Alexandra Kelly, Managing Director at Powerchex, said it was an easy decision to make. "Powerchex are already registered with the Information Commissioner as a data processor and data controller so this just backs up what we already do. Protecting the personal data of our clients and their applicants has always been one of our top priorities. Whether that means making sure that visitors are always escorted around the building or disabling USB ports on all of our computers, we have always been dedicated to complying, and more often than not, going beyond what the law requires."

ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Powerchex

Powerchex is the UK's premier pre-employment screening firm for financial institutions. Based in the City of London, Powerchex checks the background, employment history, criminal records and professional qualifications of applicants on behalf of financial institutions. It sets the industry benchmark of 5 days for a background check.

www.powerchex.co.uk.

For more information please contact:

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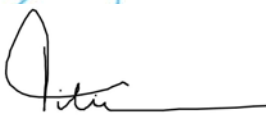
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**I Alexandra Kelly,
on behalf of Powerchex Limited,
promise that we will:**

1. value the personal information entrusted to us and make sure we respect that trust;
2. go further than just the letter of the law when it comes to handling personal information, and adopt good practice standards;
3. consider and address the privacy risks first when we are planning to use or hold personal information in new ways, such as when introducing new systems;
4. be open with individuals about how we use their information and who we give it to;
5. make it easy for individuals to access and correct their personal information;
6. keep personal information to the minimum necessary and delete it when we no longer need it;
7. have effective safeguards in place to make sure personal information is kept securely and does not fall into the wrong hands;
8. provide training to staff who handle personal information and treat it as a disciplinary matter if they misuse or don't look after personal information properly;
9. put appropriate financial and human resources into looking after personal information to make sure we can live up to our promises; and
10. regularly check that we are living up to our promises and report on how we are doing.

Signed Alexandra Kelly – Managing Director

Signed 
Date 22nd June 2009



Information Commissioner's Office
Promoting public access to official information
and protecting your personal information