

## **Christopher Graham** **Information Commissioner**

My name's Christopher Graham, I'm the Information Commissioner, that means that I'm the Chief Executive of the ICO, the Information Commissioner's Office, and we're there to promote access to official information in appropriate circumstances, and to protect people's personal data.

The work of the ICO is hugely important, particularly with new technology, data really needs to be looked after, and there's a natural concern for access to official information and the right to know. And you can see what happens when things go wrong, so the ICO is there to make sure that things don't go wrong, and that we do look after people's data and we make sure that there is an informed citizenry who have access to information they need.

The ICO is expanding. It's expanding because of new powers and duties under data protection law. We're staffing up to be able to do that job properly, and on the freedom of information side too there's a big increase in applications to the ICO, and the irony is that the more successful we are, the more high profile we are, the more business it brings in, so this is an expanding business, and I want to make sure we've got the right team working to make sure we keep up with the business, get ahead of the business and deliver a first class service.

This is a people business and we're looking for bright, clever, curious people who are committed to helping the citizen to exercise their rights under data protection and freedom of information legislation. I don't want campaigners, but I want people who are aware, who want to make a difference, who are really customer focused, if you like. This isn't an academic operation, it's not just administration, it's helping to get things done, helping to make a difference.

We've had a staff survey recently, and we got very high scores as a good place to work, so I want people who are really committed and conscientious and really want to deliver and, in return, fantastic training, fantastic development, fantastic opportunities to broaden your skills and develop really transferable skills and develop a career, and pretty good terms and conditions as well.