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Date 3 April 2002

Keith Reeder
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DATA PROTECTION QUERY – MARTIN HOSSACK

1. We have spoken on a couple of occasions regarding the Data Protection query I am about to outline concerning the family Hossack. The following is the sequence of events culminating in my query:
- Original request from Deborah Hossack's solicitor, Waldrons, to provide benefit information/employment details in relation to her personal injury. This request was treated as normal business, not a subject access request. Ms Hossack provided written authority to disclose.
 - Reply to request sent by this Business Unit, to Waldrons & Co, Solicitors stating that we had no trace of any claim for benefit for Ms Hossack.. In addition, at the request of Waldrons a copy of this reply was sent to the solicitors Wragge & Co Solicitors for Dudley MBC.
 - On 8 February 2002, Waldrons solicitors, wrote to the Benefits Agency expressing concern that there had been an unauthorised disclosure of information to Wragge & Co Solicitors, regarding Mr Martin Hossack residing at the same address as Ms Hossack..
 - On 13 February 2002, a reply was sent to Waldrons Solicitors, by the Benefits Agency, stating that following a preliminary investigation we were unable to substantiate the allegation.
 - On 13 March 2002 a letter was received from Waldrons giving detailed reasons for the alleged unauthorised disclosure. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of a letter from Wragge & Co to Waldrons stating that they had received a telephone call from the Benefits Agency giving details of Ms Hossack's husbands benefit details.
 - On 19 March 2002 the Benefits Agency rang Wragge & Co to clarify the alleged unauthorised disclosure.