

Press Release



School pupils can demand access to computer records

School children have the right to access information held on them by their school, according to the Government's Information Commissioner. Local solicitor **Claire Bell**, Director at **Actons Solicitors** says children and parents could use the rules to find out if the school is holding fingerprint and iris scan data.

"Thousands of schools across the country are increasingly collecting fingerprint and eye-scan data on their pupils. The new guidance means children as young as 12 can now check exactly what information is held on them. Schools have to respond within 15 days. It's a legal right,"

Under the Data Protection Act, children as young as 12 should be able to access their educational records and other personal information held about them.

"Anyone who has problems obtaining access to their records should contact the Information Commissioner's Office for help" says **Claire Bell** "It might be necessary to seek expert legal advice. It's worth noting that schools can charge for access to the records. There are also various exceptions, so schools can withhold some types of information."

If you require any further Data protection information, please contact **Claire Bell** or a member of her team on **0115 9 100 200** or email enquiries@actons.co.uk

- For additional information or comment please contact: Claire Bell on 0115 9 100 200 or email enquires@actons.co.uk
- A press release issued by the Information Commissioner's Office is available at: http://www.ico.gov.uk/about_us/news_and_views/press_releases.aspx (release date Jan 29 2007)

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- The Information Commissioner has, for a number of years, cited the age of 12 as the age of capacity in relation to data protection issues.



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