**Legal case studies**

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| **Which act, if any, was broken in each of these cases and why?** | Data Protection Act | Computer Misuse Act | Design, Copyright and Patents Act | Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act | None |
| A policeman was in a dispute with someone who lived nearby. He sent a request to the Police National Computer to find out if the other person had up-to-date tax and insurance on his car. The check on the database was processed by the appropriate staff in the usual way. |  |  |  |  | Because it was used for a Business related issue |
| A large mobile phone retailer collected customers’ details when they bought a new mobile phone. This included asking them if they were interested in receiving cable TV. The personal details of interested customers were burnt to CD and sent to a cable TV company. One of the CDs was lost. | Because personal details on many customers were lost |  |  |  |  |
| A student finds out the username and password of a friend’s Facebook account. He logs on as him and sends rude messages to his friends as a joke. |  | This was unauthorised access |  |  |  |
| To make it easier for new staff to use the computer systems, a company allowed new staff to use other staff login details to access the records of their customers. The staff shared passwords and usernames. |  |  |  |  | All staff agreed to these terms |
| People who had been injured in a number of minor accidents attended a health clinic for treatment. A nurse passed their contact details on to an employee of an injury compensation company so that he could contact them to ask if they wanted help in pursuing a claim for compensation for their injuries. | Information was passed unlawfully without data subjects permission |  |  |  |  |
| A computer software tester made an online donation to a charity website, but was concerned at its slow response, poor graphics and no acknowledgement of his donation. He wondered if it was a fake ‘phishing’ site, so carried out 2 tests to check its security (using a directory traversal test). His tests showed that the site was secure. |  | Unauthorised access to the site |  |  |  |
| Three students were producing copies of DVDs that they had bought and were selling the copies on eBay. |  |  | Did not have permission to copy the DVD |  |  |
| A student is under pressure to complete his coursework and the day before the deadline he emails his project from home to his college email address so that he can print it out and hand it in. When he gets to college he has forgotten his password and cannot log in. His friend gives him his login name and password so that he can use these to get to his home email and download his project. |  |  |  |  | His friend authorised him to use his account |
| A home shopping company regularly sent marketing emails to its customers. One of their customers asked to be removed from the list of people who received this direct marketing information. The company continued to send marketing material addressed to her. | They have Unlawfully kept her data without her permission |  |  |  |  |
| A man from Teesside set up a web site to allow registered users to contact each other in order to share music files. People would pay a fee to register with the site, post what music they were willing to share and could search for people offering tracks that they were interested in. |  |  | They do not have permission from the creators to share that content |  |  |
| In a boardroom dispute, the founder of a company arranged for all emails to and from the email account of the chairman of the company to be sent to a Hotmail account that he had access to. |  |  |  | He is unlawfully intercepting message’s he does not have access to |  |
| An internet service provider was served a notice by the police to provide details of the content of emails sent to and from one particular email address over a 10-day period. The email account had been set up to delete emails once they had been read by the user. For the ISP to store these emails it had to intercept them before they were accessed by the account holder. |  |  |  |  | The ISP has done this in order to possibly prevent a crime |