

NEWS RELEASE



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Corporate environmental crime must not go unpunished

Penalty notices should be issued to businesses as well as individuals that commit environmental offences, Northgate Information Solutions said today.

Welcoming the Environmental Audit Sub-Committee's new inquiry into corporate environmental crime, Northgate called on the Committee to examine the use of penalty notices as an additional proportionate means of dealing with minor corporate offending.

Speaking today, David Meaden, Managing Director of Northgate Public Services, said:

"We warmly welcome this groundbreaking inquiry into corporate environmental crime. We have long said that to successfully tackle this problem there cannot be one rule for individuals and one rule for businesses.

"We all have the right to live in a safe and secure environment. But when offences are committed, there must be fair and proportionate enforcement in order to reinforce a culture of respect and responsibility.

"Our forthcoming research has highlighted a number of additional areas where penalty notices could usefully be employed within the corporate sector, reducing the burden on regulatory bodies and ensuring that businesses receive a proportionate response to minor offending."

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

1. Northgate is a technology services company with a difference. It is committed to high quality public services and understands the public sector. That knowledge is core to its business.
2. Northgate's task is to enhance public sector value through intelligent use of people and information technology systems and to share in the economic and social benefits that this brings.
3. Northgate assists local authorities and the police to promote community well-being by helping them provide citizens with accessible and responsive one-stop services. Northgate is the country's leading provider of penalty notice systems to the police.

4. The legal research will be published in August 2004, along with qualitative research carried out by Fellows' Associates in partnership with IDeA on the use of penalty notices by local authorities. For further information please contact Kathy Sutton (07966 890401) or Naomi Stevenson (07966 890403).