

NEWS RELEASE



13th January 2003

Environmental crime must be tackled fairly but firmly

Penalty notices should be issued to individuals and corporates that have committed environmental offences, according to Northgate Information Solutions.

In a submission to the Environmental Audit Committee's enquiry into environmental crime, Northgate asked the committee to examine the extended use of penalty notices for tackling minor offences.

Highlighting examples of international best practice, the submission recommends that any extended use of penalty notices must take place as part of a comprehensive education and enforcement programme, with clear standards set for the quality of enforcement.

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

"We welcome the committee's important enquiry into environmental crime. It is critical that we protect wildlife and their habitats alongside the built environment, now and for future generations.

We all of us have a duty to protect our surroundings, and prevention through public education is the key. But when offences are committed, there must be fair and proportionate enforcement in order to reinforce a culture of respect and responsibility."

-ENDS-

For further information:

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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.