

XVth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONERS

Manchester 27-30 September 1993

CLOSED SESSION 30 SEPTEMBER 1993

This session of the Conference was restricted to Commissioners and members of their delegations. The notes which follow are not a full report of the session but seek to bring out conclusions and main points of interest.

1. Structure of the Annual International Conference

The division into a number of open sessions, together with a closed session for Commissioners was agreed. The policy of presenting contrasting points of view as in the current conference, was endorsed. However, more time should be made available for debate. It might also be possible to draw out experience through the use of questionnaires.

The distribution of handouts by placing these on delegates seats had been helpful.

2. Charging for Attendance

The numbers attending the Conference were growing. It was agreed that a charge for observers was appropriate and that a smaller charge for Commissioners and their staff was acceptable.

3. Conference Resolutions

The present flexible position with regard to whether the Conference passed resolutions or not should remain.

4. Working Parties

It was open to individual Commissioners to form these if they wished. They would be working parties of Conference members, but not of the Conference itself. If Commissioners responsible for working parties wished to tell the Conference of the results of their work, then they could do so.

5. Exchange of views and experience amongst Commissioners/secretariat requirements

It was important to facilitate the continuous exchange of views and experience between Commissioners. To assist this, and to help with future Conference organisation, it was decided to establish a "semi-secretariat" arrangement.

The country hosting the Conference would provide a "semi-secretariat" service for the following year. This service would not be extensive, but would:

- provide a central information service on reports Commissioners put forward as being of general interest;
- keep an up-to-date address list of Conference members;
- maintain a list of topics of current interest to individual Commissioners;
- assist Commissioners who wished to set up working parties by circulating information to other Commissioners.

6. Relationships with other organisations

The Conference would remain restricted to data protection and privacy commissioners. However, the policy of encouraging appropriate observers to attend main sessions would continue. The Conference would retain open and friendly relationships with other groups and organisations. However, it was not appropriate for the Conference to have a more formal relationship with other groups.

Individual Commissioners would make their own decisions on the specific relationships they established with other bodies with continuing data protection/privacy interests.

E.J. HOWE
14 April 1994