

Data Protection Ireland

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Spain to impose €2.4m fine on Google

The Spanish Data Protection Commissioner has announced that it plans to impose a fine of over €2.4 million on Google after initiating a criminal sanction procedure.

The Agencia Española de Protección de Datos (Data Protection Agency), believes that in collecting data for its Street View software, Google committed a total of five infringements against the Spanish Data Protection Act – two serious and three very serious.

The Commissioner found that the Street View service had not only collected information

about Wi-Fi networks, but also the names and surnames of people using those networks, as well as usernames and passwords, which is a considerable violation of European data protection legislation. Furthermore, Google has been accused of transferring the data to the US illegally.

For each infringement, Google could face a fine of between €60,101 and €300,506, and for the very serious infringements a fine of up to €601,012.

The agency is waiting for ongoing legal proceedings directed at Google in a Madrid court to

conclude before it moves forward.

At the next stage of the procedure in Madrid, Google’s legal representative can provide evidence to demonstrate that it has not committed any infringement and answer the charges.

Canada’s Privacy Commissioner, Jennifer Stoddart, has also found Google to have violated thousands of Canadian citizens privacy in the collection of data for Street View in Canada.

The Commissioner has spoken of how Google stored data such as the

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EU to add Israel to ‘adequate’ list despite Irish concerns

The European Union will be adding Israel to the list of countries it deems to have ‘adequate’ data protection laws. This is despite concerns raised by Minister for Justice Dermot Ahern over the use of eight fake Irish passports by the alleged Israeli assassins of Hamas operative Mahmoud al-Mabhouh.

As a result of the decision, companies within the EU

will be able to transfer data to Israel without breaching the EU Data Protection Directive. This follows the recent news that Uruguay will also be joining the list, subject to approval of the European Commission.

Other countries on the list include Switzerland, Argentina, Canada, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, and the Faroe Islands.

The European Parliament has one month to scrutinise the decision to add Israel to the list, although it cannot change the decision of the European Commission: “the adequacy of Israel should therefore be formally approved by the end of the year,” a spokeswoman for the Commission said.

If a country is not on the

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