

Wragge & Co wins test case for the Ministry of Defence



Andrew Manning Cox

Wragge Et Co LLP Dispute Resolution Group has won an important test case challenging the legality of Thames Water Utilities Limited's current charging system for sewerage services. A team of commercial litigation and regulatory experts advised the Ministry of Defence on its successful claim against Thames Water. The judgment was handed down in the High Court on Thursday. Lead partner Andrew Manning Cox said: "This was an important point of principle for the MoD and one we were determined to win. Customers should not have to pay for services they have not received. We had an excellent team combining litigation experience with sector-specific expertise, and are very pleased with the result." Thames Water is one of the MoD's statutory sewerage undertakers. It billed the MoD for sewerage services based on the assumption that an equivalent volume of sewage leaves the site as the volume of water entering the site. But, water leaks over a six-year period meant more water was entering than sewage leaving. The MoD had paid for services that Thames Water had not provided. Despite receiving evidence showing the extent of the leakage, Thames Water refused to fully reimburse the MoD. Her Honour Judge Kirkham found in favour of the MoD, ruling that it was entitled to pursue a claim for repayment on the basis that it had not received services for which it had paid. With many in the industry operating similar charging systems, this is an important judgment. It sets a precedent for other customers to recover overpayments.

Designs on growth

Worcester law firm Harrison Clark LLP has acted for Birmingham based Bluebrook Design Limited in the recent, successful purchase of an established graphic design and print company, Ink Design Limited also based in Birmingham. Neil Cartwright, a director of Bluebrook Design and director of Ink Design, said he was delighted with the services provided by Harrison Clark's business services team: "The approach taken by Harrison Clark was nothing but professional in terms of their knowledge, speed of work and efficiency at all times. "As a small business owner, I have never been involved before in a buyout situation – the Harrison Clark team 'held my hand' throughout to ensure that I was comfortable and confident of every aspect of the deal. I cannot recommend them highly enough," Neil added. Arpinder Dhillon of Harrison Clark said: "As a team, the Harrison Clark business services department works with companies of this size as well as larger organisations. We were delighted to have been part of the team that enabled Bluebrook Design to successfully acquire Ink Design." The deal has now placed Ink Design, which currently turns over £1 million, in a strong position of growth for 2006 and onwards. For further information on Harrison Clark's business services, for all sizes and nature of businesses, please contact Inger Woolhouse on 01905 744840 or by email at iwoolhouse@harrison-clark.co.uk

Whitefoot-Forward gains ISO Quality Award



Award winning firm, Whitefoot-Forward Ltd, has announced its success in achieving the ISO 9001:2000 Certification; the global gold standard for quality management, against which an organisation's quality system is measured.

The certification recognises Whitefoot-Forward Ltd as a leading provider of exceptional service and customer care and was issued following a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation and selection process, which required Whitefoot-Forward Ltd to

implement only a handful of additional procedures. The accreditation, held by only 3 percent of all UK businesses, covers all of Whitefoot-Forward's archive management, crate and pallet storage services. "ISO 9001:2000 registration represents the benchmark for quality systems worldwide, achieved through an independent evaluation process," said Michael Whitefoot, managing director of Whitefoot-Forward. "We have always been proud of the service we offer our clients and this has now been endorsed by securing the ISO 9001:2000 certification." David Storey, who undertook the assessment for CQS Certified Quality Systems, paid particular tribute to "the investment in people and training that enables Whitefoot-Forward to provide an efficient service to their customers." Hartlebury-based Whitefoot-Forward provides a range of money and space saving document management and pallet storage services to businesses and organisations across the region. To find out more about any of Whitefoot-Forward's services contact Michael Whitefoot on 0800 074 0467.

Survey identifies main risks to businesses

A recent independent survey conducted by ICM Research, shows that 23% of small businesses see server or website downtime as the biggest risk to their business. iRevolution are striving to make server downtime a thing of the past with their aptly named service, iASSIST. iASSIST is a low cost, remote, 24/7 server monitoring service, that is easy to install and requires no further IT hardware at your facilities. iRevolution's monitoring tools and professionals will monitor your servers and send you an e-mail, SMS or fax if they notice a problem that may cause server downtime. This enables you to fix the problem before it affects your mission critical applications. This is just one example of how iRevolution can assist small businesses with their IT problems. iRevolution have over 10 years of experience in providing cost effective IT solutions to meet the real business needs of small to medium businesses. iRevolution provides solutions that enable rather than restrict productivity, that allow you to focus on your core business and that provide measurable business benefits and therefore a clear return on investment. These types of solution will achieve business ambitions for today and tomorrow. For more information, visit www.irevolution.com.

