



## Sunday Post - 3 February 2013

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# The war against nuisance calls continues



■ Richard Hermann fought back against cold callers.

ANOTHER nuisance firm faces huge financial penalties for making cold sales calls.

The Sunday Post has learned that the Information Commissioner's Office is to add a fourth unnamed company to their hit-list next week.

The revelation comes on the day our campaign for action on the blight reaches the magic number of 20,000 signatures.

We will now present our petition to 10 Downing Street.

Our tireless action on the issue over the last six months has heaped pressure on the UK Government to act.

Last night, campaigners welcomed the new action from the ICO.

Mike Crockart, Lib Dem Edinburgh West MP, who has been leading the political fight, said: "The campaign we are running is continuing to make a difference.

"I am pleased to see the ICO clamping down on those who disregard the rules.

"If people are registered on the Telephone Preference Service there is no excuse for their wishes to be ignored."

The newly targeted company, who cannot be named for legal reasons, faces a mammoth fine of up to £500,000 for making unsolicited sales calls. They join three other under fire firms who

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we revealed last year were already under investigation for contacting British consumers on the TPS.

It is unclear when a decision will be made on any potential fines.

The ICO began grading firms who cause consumer "concern" in a new traffic light system last year.

Some of the companies named on their website have frequently come up on our radar during our investigations into the cold calling business.

David Hickson, of the Fair Telecoms Campaign said: "There is positive signs from the ICO and it seems to be the case they are getting tp grips with the size of the problem.

"I would encourage them to hit these firms harder and faster using the existing law."

A spokesman for the ICO said: "We are to add a new company to the list of firms we are considering taking enforcement action against."

Meanwhile, the Sunday Post has learned the Westminster Government have held talks about granting the ICO even more powers to combat nuisance calls.