### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Securys Introduces More Affordable Data Privacy Compliance Options for Jamaican Schools**

**Kingston, Jamaica –**

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In response to increasing concerns about the cost of complying with Jamaica’s **Data Protection Act (DPA)**, global data privacy consultancy **Securys** (Jamaica) Ltd. has introduced new, more affordable pricing parameters aimed at helping independent schools meet their legal obligations without financial strain.

With many schools already two registration cycles behind, schools are under growing pressure to implement the necessary measures to protect the personal data of students, parents, and staff. The law imposes strict regulations on how organizations collect, store, and use personal information, and non-compliance can lead to stiff penalties of up to 4% of total revenues per breach, enforcement actions, and reputational damage.

Schools, which routinely manage sensitive information including student records, health data, and family contacts, are particularly affected by the new requirements.

### **New Pricing Structure Designed to Ease Financial Pressure**

To address these challenges, Securys has introduced a special initiative called “Privacy in Education” (PIE) that reduces the cost of its Data Privacy Compliance Programme to significantly for participating schools. This initiative will deliver an average savings of approximately 88% to schools when compared to standard market rates for similar services. The new pricing is fixed for the entire academic year, for five years, providing financial certainty for schools and enabling them to plan accordingly.

In addition to the reduced cost, Securys is offering flexibility in payment arrangements to better align with schools’ academic calendars. This new approach ensures that schools of all sizes, regardless of their student population, can access support in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Participating schools will receive a comprehensive **Privacy Gap Assessment** to identify current data handling risks and compliance gaps. Each school will also benefit from a **Tailored Remediation Plan** designed to create a privacy program specific to its operations and needs. Furthermore, the programme includes the provision of a **Data Protection Officer (DPO)**, which is a legal requirement under the DPA, to oversee compliance efforts. Schools will also receive regular **staff training, privacy awareness sessions, and assistance in developing data protection policies**, all aimed at embedding a culture of privacy across the institution.

### **Understanding Schools’ Obligations Under the Data Protection Act**

The **Data Protection Act** mandates that all schools register with the **Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC)** and re-register annually while filing annual Data Privacy Impact Assessments. Schools are also required to appoint a **Data Protection Officer** to ensure ongoing compliance and serve as a point of contact for the regulator and data subjects.

Additionally, schools must develop and communicate clear **privacy policies** to parents, staff, and students. They must implement appropriate security measures to safeguard personal information and establish data retention policies that limit the collection and storage of unnecessary information. Regular training for staff members is also essential to ensure that the entire school community understands its responsibilities under the law.

Failure to meet these requirements could result in regulatory investigations, financial penalties, and potential legal liability.

### **Urgent Deadline for Registration and Limited Access**

Schools that wish to take advantage of Securys’ new affordable compliance solution must register their intent to participate by **July 15, 2025**. No extensions will be offered beyond this deadline. Schools that miss the registration window will need to wait until **January 2026** to join the next available cohort, which could leave them exposed to enforcement actions once the Data Protection Act takes full effect.

The registration process is straightforward, requiring only basic information about the school and its student population. Importantly, no immediate payment is required in order to confirm interest.

### **Supporting Schools to Meet Compliance Goals**

By introducing these new pricing parameters, Securys aims to remove financial barriers that may prevent schools from meeting their legal obligations under the Data Protection Act. The company’s revised model offers Jamaican schools access to **world-class data privacy standards**, aligned with the **UK’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, in a manner that is both practical and affordable.

Further guidance and details on the compliance programme will be shared at the upcoming Jamaica Independent School’s Association (JISA) Leadership Conference on July 15th, where Securys will host information sessions and provide one-on-one consultations for school leaders. The conference will bring together principals, administrators, and key decision-makers to discuss the impact of the DPA on education and the practical steps required to protect student, staff, and parent data.

Speaking ahead of the conference, Mrs. Tamar McKenzie, JISA President, emphasized the importance of using the event as an opportunity for education and action. “We know that many schools are still in the early stages of understanding their obligations under the law,” McKenzie said. “The Leadership Conference is the perfect setting to break down the requirements, answer questions, and ensure every school leader leaves with a clear roadmap to compliance.”

Andre Palmer, Head of Practice at Securys Jamaica, highlighted the role of school leadership in building a culture of privacy. “Data protection isn't just a regulatory box to tick, it’s about safeguarding the rights of the children and communities we serve,” Palmer noted. “The Leadership Conference allows us to connect directly with school leaders, helping them to embed privacy principles into their operations in a way that is both practical and sustainable.”

Schools seeking more information or wishing to register for the programme are encouraged to contact Securys via email at info@securys.com.jm or via their website at[www.securys.com.jm/pie](http://www.securys.com.jm/pie)