

9<sup>th</sup> February 2006

## Media Statement from the Irish Payment Services Organisation

### Identity Theft Appeal to Cardholders to be Vigilant with Personal Information

The Irish Payment Services Organisation (IPSO) today renewed its appeal to Irish credit and debit card holders to ensure due care is taken with their personal financial information.

A recent survey carried out by APACS (IPSO's UK counterpart) of 2,000 people indicated that one in three people did not shred or burn bank and credit card statements, while 19% had let someone else use their card to buy something over the internet or telephone.

One in five people admitted they only occasionally checked their statements or did not look at them at all, and 17% said it did not worry them if someone took their card out of their sight while they were shopping.

*'In order to protect against identity theft it is essential to destroy all transaction receipts, financial statements and any other documentation bearing personal information such as your name, address, date of birth and especially account or card numbers. Small document shredders can be bought for as little as €15.'*

*Úna Dillon, Manager of IPSO Card Services*

With just a few personal details a fraudster can quite easily run up credit in a genuine cardholder's name for quite some time before the cardholder even becomes aware of the situation.

Identity theft accounts for a small but growing percentage of card fraud in Ireland.

Cardholders are also advised to be extremely careful about giving personal information out over the phone. If you receive an unsolicited /unexpected telephone call from someone asking you for credit card details, always ask for a landline telephone number, check it and phone the person back.

For further information on card fraud and simple, but effective techniques to protect against it, please visit [www.SafeCard.ie](http://www.SafeCard.ie)

-ENDS-

For further information, photographic material or interview, please contact:  
Úna Dillon  
IPSO Card Services  
C/o IPSO  
12/13 Cumberland Street  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin

Tel: +353-1-6636740  
Fax: +353-1-2843409  
Email: [info@ipso.ie](mailto:info@ipso.ie)  
Web: [www.SafeCard.ie](http://www.SafeCard.ie)

