

Latest updates from [The Office of the Data Protection Authority](#)

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Message from the Commissioner

A strong theme of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on which our own legislation, *The Data Protection (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2017* is based, is cooperation. It is a reminder that one of the objectives of the data protection legislation that is now in place across Europe, and beyond, is to harmonise the protection of individuals' data rights as well as the free flow of personal data across borders.



The GDPR and our own law are now almost two years old and our office is almost unrecognisable from when it was created in May 2018.

Our focus during the 'setting up' phase of our office was very much about internal processes, procedures and governance. The new legislation brought with it many new duties which have taken time and consideration. Despite some coverage we see around data protection, doing it well involves so much more than enforcement and fines; it involves understanding the increasing social and economic impact of data and how regulation can play a part in building an environment of respect and compliance. That means we have to build a regulatory office that is capable of responding to infringements. It also means that we need to invest time and thought into how best to support and engage with individuals and businesses.

If we are to respond effectively to regulatory challenges as well as deliver on building awareness and

understanding of the law, it helps us to remember the principle of harmonisation.

Data no longer sits in geographical borders; it flows across the globe in ever-increasing volumes and with ever-increasing speed. This means that data protection in our Bailiwick cannot be seen in isolation; we are part of a wider community of countries and businesses who rely on unfettered data flows.

The data protection laws themselves provide for cooperation and mutual assistance between regulatory authorities. This is important for the regulators, but it is also important for the regulated community because it encourages consistency. One of the challenges of managing compliance with any data protection legislation is that it is principles based and often requires interpretation as well as a balancing of interests. Where we can all work to consistent standards and approach, we should do so.

At this office we recognise that many local organisations have data processing activities that extend beyond the shores of the Islands. We have, this month, [signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the data protection regulatory office in Jersey](#) which builds on the statutory duties we have to work together.

We also continue to work closely with other jurisdictions to allow relationships to be built and communications to continue.

- Emma Martins

Data Protection Commissioner

Emma has been invited to speak at the Chamber of Commerce's lunch & learn (9 June 2020), [Security IT Summit](#) (30 June 2020, London), and [2020 Human Resources in Financial Services Forum](#) (2 July 2020).



20 May 2020: ODPa Conference

Please mark your diary as 'busy' for 20 May 2020. We will be hosting a one-day data conference with a difference. More details to follow over coming weeks.

Details of the rest of our 2020 events are below.

Events programme launched

Visit odpa.gg/events to find out more



2020 events programme launched

Having successfully delivered 11 events during 'season 1' of our events programme last year, we are pleased to announce details of 'season 2' as follows:

1. Tues 17 Mar 2020:(12pm-1pm)**Data Protection in the Workplace**
2. Tue 31 Mar 2020:(12pm-1pm)**How to respond to 'subject access requests'**
3. Tue 21 Apr 2020:(12pm-1pm)**Data breaches: Human error vs. technology**
4. Wed 6 May 2020:(12pm-1pm)**Doing the right thing with personal data: Data Ethics in practice**
5. Wed 20 May 2020:(9am-5pm)**ODPA Conference 2020 ***
6. Tue 2 Jun 2020:(12pm-1pm)**The Seven Data Protection Principles**
7. Wed 17 Jun 2020:(12pm-1pm)**The human at the heart: Individuals' rights under data protection legislation**
8. Tue 30 Jun 2020:(12pm-1pm)**Data protection in Healthcare**

All events are free to attend but you must [register via our events page](#) (* with the exception of the conference on 20 May, as we are still finalising details and ticket cost for this).

If you would like to suggest any topics for future events, or have any feedback about previous events please email communications@odpa.gg.

Registration exemptions extended

Anyone who is currently exempt from the legal requirement to [register](#) with us will now continue to be exempt until January 2021. This means that any local entity (such as small businesses and sole traders) who currently meet the exemption criteria ([find out what these are here](#)) will not need to register with the ODPa until the beginning of 2021.

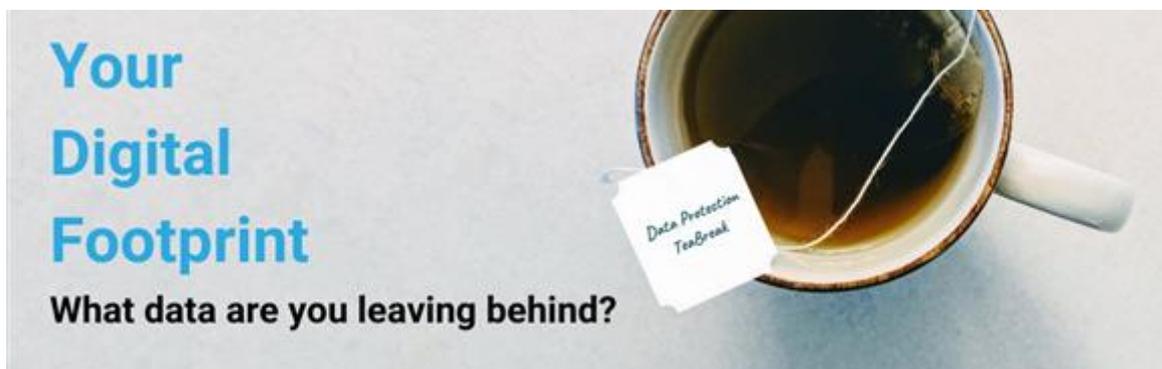
[READ PRESS RELEASE AND Q&As HERE](#)

Public statement

26 February 2020

Public statement: reprimand issued to Policy & Resources Committee

On 26 February we released [this public statement](#) detailing the reprimand issued to The States of Guernsey's Policy & Resources Committee (P&R). The reprimand relates to P&R not providing data subjects participating in The Committee for Home Affairs Governance Review Report, titled '*Meeting the challenge: towards better governance*', with [schedule 3 information](#) as required by *The Data Protection (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2017*.



New podcast released: Your Digital Footprint

In the 10th episode of our Data Protection Tea Break podcast, our COO Tim Loveridge and Deputy Commissioner Rachel Masterton explore the [benefits and risks of your digital footprint](#); the data you leave behind you online.

You can listen to all podcasts via [SoundCloud](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or find them all at the base of our [Advice, Guidance & Resources](#) page.



Strategic Plan (2019-2022) update published

We have published an updated version of our Strategic Plan (2019-2022), including a summary of progress made in 2019.

READ: [Updated Strategic Plan \(2019-2022\)](#) – added new priority action: ‘Be open to constructive exploration of innovative practices and activities within the regulated community.’

READ: [Summary of 2019 progress](#)

Free advice (for organisations and individuals)

Fortnightly drop-in sessions (general enquiries)

If you are representing an organisation, of any size, and you have a **general enquiry** you can come along to our drop-in sessions between 09:00 – 12:00 every other Wednesday morning.

The next sessions will be held on: **Wed 4 March** and **Wed 18 March**. See a [full calendar of the drop-in sessions for 2020 here](#). You may also be interested in [attending one of our free events](#).

What to expect at our drop-in sessions:

1. We will ask you to sign in and will give you a ticket number.
2. When your ticket is called you will be taken into a meeting room with an ODPA staff member. They will listen to your questions, and talk over any issues you are having.
3. To make sure we can see as many people as possible, we normally limit each individual meeting to approximately 30 minutes.
4. If your query is not resolved you are very welcome to come back a fortnight later to the next session.

Casework and Study Visits (specific enquiries)

- For **specific queries relating to ongoing cases** please request an appointment with the ODPA staff member assigned to your case.
- To explore a **specific topic or issue in detail** [please contact us to request a ‘study visit’](#).

Members of the public (by appointment only)

If you have concerns about how your personal data, or other people's, is being used you can talk to us in confidence either over the phone (you do not need to give your name), or in person. If you would like to meet with us, please request an appointment so that we can make sure we have the relevant staff member available to assist you. You can request an appointment by:

- Emailing us (enquiries@odpa.gg)
- Calling us on 01481 742074
- Dropping in to our office between 08:30-17:00 (Mon-Fri)

If you are looking for information on how to exercise your rights [please follow our quick guide](#) in the first instance.

Advice, Guidance & Resources

If you are finding navigating the data protection landscape difficult, you are not alone. We are here to help. We regularly publish guidance and resources to support all local organisations in their own approach to compliance with our local data protection law.

Below is just a small selection which you can use as you see fit, [you can access all of our Advice, Guidance & Resources here](#).

The Seven Data Protection Principles (poster)



Why you should care about data protection (leaflet)



How to avoid five common breach scenarios



Where are you leaving your data footprint?



Six data protection myths busted



Eight steps to protect yourself from identity theft and scams



Suggested reading:

Each month our commissioner provides suggested reading to help you make sense of and safely navigate our data-driven society.

This month's choice is: *Understanding Privacy* by Daniel J Solove



Daniel J Solove is a professor of law at the George Washington University Law School. He is well known for his writing and teaching on privacy matters and has written a number of books. In this book, Solove gives a comprehensive overview of the difficulties involved in discussions of privacy. Rather than accepting that because defining privacy is difficult this means we don't try, he argues that because no single definition can be workable we need to better understand cultural differences and historical changes in views of privacy.

Solove writes in a beautifully clear and accessible way, setting out a framework for understanding privacy that provides practical guidance for engaging with the complex issues at the heart of the book. He talks of that fact that he wants (the book) to be “the beginning of what I hope will be a more comprehensive and clear understanding of privacy”.



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