

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

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Message from the Commissioner

At a time when the world is being challenged in ways that only a matter of weeks ago seemed unimaginable, it is difficult for us all to focus on many previously routine aspects of our work and home life.

We are facing an extraordinary time in our individual lives and in our global history.

Lives are being lost and livelihoods are being destroyed. These are not normal times, so it is entirely inappropriate to pretend otherwise.

Technology allows all of us at this office to work relatively easily from home and many of you will be doing the same thing. It highlights how lucky we are to be able to continue with many of our functions without too much difficulty (please see our [tips for working from home](#)). But we also recognise that many of our regulated community are facing extraordinary and unprecedented challenges.

We are a part of that community and whilst we understand that our statutory role remains unchanged, the way in which we approach our duties needs to reflect the reality that many organisations are facing. A [public statement made last week confirmed that, during this crisis, we will be sensitive to the pressures](#) certain organisations are under, especially those in the front line of dealing with the pandemic.

That is not to say that looking after data properly no longer matters, it does. The way in which



governments in every country collect and analyse data will, I have no doubt, increasingly prove a crucial element in the management of the virus. Different governments and different cultures are responding in a myriad of different ways with some (such as China) using advanced surveillance and tracking on their citizens, and others (such as Sweden) relying much more on 'self-responsibility' (the notion that individuals act responsibly without the need for draconian measures).

There will be plenty of time to scrutinise the different tactics and outcomes in the coming months and years but one thing is certain, the level of trust in political leaders is being tested like never before.

Only last month I was reading Margaret Heffernan's latest book, *Uncharted* in which she challenges us to think about the future and seek to create it in a way that we want and believe in. In that book there is a whole chapter dedicated to epidemics. Reading it back, today and at this extraordinary time, it makes for unsettling reading. But one thing stands out – she talks of the importance of relationships (such as between governments and their people) being nurtured before an outbreak ("don't exchange business cards in a crisis"). It is relatively easy to lead at a time of stability; the real test is when things don't go as planned.

It seems clear that in our small jurisdiction we, with very few exceptions, trust and support our own government and how they are handling the current crisis. Further, a recent touching story of how all those in a supermarket queue stepped aside for an elderly gentleman reminds us of the decency and kindness of our community.

Leadership, integrity and information are needed from those who are tasked with leading us through this very difficult time. Teamwork, flexibility and above all kindness are needed from all of the rest of us.

- 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).

Events and fortnightly drop-ins suspended

Our programme of 8 [events](#) for this year has been suspended, along with our [fortnightly drop-ins](#). We are working hard to bring a version of our lunchtime events online, so please bear with us.

If you had a booking for one of our events, or are on a waiting list [please see this update about what will happen next](#).

In the meantime, if you need to speak to our staff they are working remotely and can be contacted via enquiries@odpa.gg.

Lowest number of breaches in more than a year

We've published details of the number and types of [personal data breaches reported to us](#) in the 2 months up to 29 February 2020.

These latest figures are the first to be released since we've enhanced how we categorise breaches. Our commissioner, Emma Martins commented:

'We publish the self-reported figures so that everyone can benefit from a better understanding of how and why breaches happen and therefore, how we can avoid them in future. We hope the new

categories will deepen understanding of this.'

[READ PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)

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](#)



New podcast released: Cyber Security and Smart Devices

In the 11th episode of our Data Protection Tea Break podcast, the ODPA's Tim Loveridge and Kirsty Bougourd speak to Carl Ceillam about [cyber security and smart devices](#).

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

Free advice (for organisations and individuals)

As detailed above, our normal programme of support (including events and drop-ins) is suspended during the Bailiwick's lockdown, but you can still:

- contact ODPA staff by emailing enquiries@odpa.gg
- access all our [online guidance and resources](#)
- read our [Covid-19 Q&A](#) (or send us your question)

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



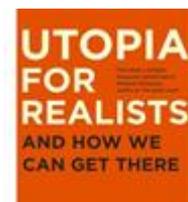
Eight steps to protect yourself from identity theft and scams



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: *Utopia for Realists* by Roger Bregman



This is a book worth a read at any time but at the moment it is probably fair to say that we could all do with a little optimism; and also from taking the time to consider ideas for making a better world. Bregman does this with a vibrancy, energy and pace that sweeps you along with him from the first page. He sets out his vision for doing things differently; beautifully and creatively using history and research (and of course data!) to illustrate his points. Utopia has become synonymous with fiction and things that are unachievable. But, if we start to look at it as something which we can, collectively, strive for, maybe we can 're-home' it in the real world. We need hope now more than we have in a long time. This book gives us hope and encourages us to be active participants in the delivery of better outcomes, rather than passive bystanders in the absence of them.

“A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing. And when Humanity lands there, it looks out, and, seeing a better country, sets sail. Progress is the realisation of Utopias.”Oscar Wilde



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