

MEMO

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This is the type of memo that can provide an overview of the obligations that arise under the GDPR from May 2018. It should need to be addressed internally within the company to show the need for the company to have in place a regime to ensure compliance with the GDPR.

Compliance should include among others:

- staff training;
- carrying out a data protection audit of the business, determining the areas for improvement and the requirements set down in the GDPR;
- implementing a GDPR data protection policy;
- implementing relevant GDPR measures.

Simply-Docs' GDPR and Data Protection Policy should help ensure that customers will have confidence in the company's handling of their data.

1. Introduction – what is the GDPR?

The GDPR is an EU wide regulation that replaces the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA 1998). It covers all companies that process personal data. The impact on some organisations will be significantly higher than others. The liability for directors set out in the GDPR is a reputational harm to a business. The GDPR may be considered as a failure to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence against an individual director.

2. GDPR Financial Penalties

The GDPR establishes a system of financial penalties for infringements. The fines can be imposed for infringements of the GDPR, whichever is the higher.

3. Personal Data

The aim of the GDPR is to ensure that individuals have a fundamental right in relation to their personal data. The GDPR states that personal data may only be processed, i.e. obtained, recorded, held, used or disclosed, in certain circumstances.

Personal data is a very wide concept. It includes any information relating to a living individual who can be identified, whether directly or indirectly, by reference to any information which is in, or likely to be in, the possession of the controller. This includes names, addresses, social security numbers, health information, employee information etc. The GDPR defines personal data more broadly than under the DPA 1998.

of a private company giving them an overview of the obligations that arise in relation to data protection. It should provide a broad overview of the areas that need to be addressed internally within the company to show the need for the company to have in place a regime to ensure compliance with the GDPR.

the current state of play within the company. It should ensure that current practices align with the requirements of the GDPR and identify areas for improvement;

companies.

be accessed [here](#). Demonstrating that the company's public image as consumers and data handlers is handled.

UK it replaces the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA 1998). It covers all companies that process personal data. The sanctions for breaches are significantly higher than under the DPA 1998, whilst there is no direct personal liability for directors set out in the GDPR. The levels of potential fines and the impact on some organisations will be significantly higher than others. The GDPR may be considered as a failure to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence against an individual director.

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addresses and mobile data. Data that has been pseudonymised (key-coded) but is still tied to a particular person. Data that has been stored is personal data. It is not only making sure data is stored for no longer than necessary.

Businesses will need to know where it is stored, what it is used for, who it is shared with and how secure it is. There must be a clear lawful basis for the processing of data. This may be that the data subject has consented to the processing of his/her personal data for one or more specific purposes. Boards should note that the processing of data is lawful if it is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party. The full list is set out in Article 6 of the GDPR.

This should all be documented. It is the GDPR's accountability principle. Businesses should be able to show how they are complying with the law. For example by having policies in place so that they can effectively manage the opportunities that using personal data brings.

Article 5 lists the core principles for the processing of personal data. Personal data shall be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject;
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes;
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
- kept in a form which allows for identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data are processed; and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

4. The Board

As mentioned above, boards have personal liability for breaches of the GDPR, however, the consequences for directors if they have failed in their Companies Act duties are fines, adverse publicity, civil and criminal liability.

The Board has a duty to ensure the accountability principle is adhered to on an on-going basis. The business is correctly managed, the procedures and is lawfully compliant. A "privacy by design" approach is taken.

The Board should also ensure that the rights of the individual under the

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GDPR, including greater consent (where consent is to processing personal data given, specific, informed and cannot be conferred from should be separate from all be implemented correctly

right to be forgotten". Individual's basis for the use of personal data) a clear affirmative action, be freely must be a positive "opt-in" which or inactivity. Requests for consent clear and plain language. This must

The Board should also respond quickly to any data personal data held by the personal data.

is in a position at all times to such as requests for a copy of all or to erase or rectify all such

5. Data Protection Officer (DPO)

All public sector organisations required to appoint a DPO monitoring of individuals (e special categories of data to criminal convictions and

DPO. Most SME businesses are not t carry out large-scale systematic (marketing) or large-scale processing of e personal data") or data relating

However, many businesses awareness within the business obligations imposed on you therefore may wish to con provide the relevant on-going properly advise on how to those businesses with a D understands the role as responsibility for data protection authority to carry out their

DPO to oversee compliance and whether a DPO is appointed, the legal R remain the same. The business who can report to the Board and e and day to day commitment to vities in relation to the GDPR. For e sure that the person knows and PR and is able to take proper has the knowledge, support and

6. Organisational Culture

Businesses must display a the GDPR and provide sta should come from the top of

that encourages compliance with tools they need to achieve this. It

At the very least there should compliance, and senior s obligations under the legis should be undertaken for a staff would be well advised affects their business as a

staff responsible for data protection also be aware of the business's ts' rights. Data protection training ves personal data, however senior ed understanding of how the law

In addition to overall aware approach to data protection meetings between senior protection matters, would it

at this translates into a proactive business. Consider whether regular se with responsibility for data

The GDPR also requires breaches without undue d need robust data breach breach occurs.

supervisory authority of all data within 72 hours. Businesses will n place in the event that such a

7. Resources and Training

Businesses should put as much emphasis on compliance in terms of human resources as on financial resources. This should include effective compliance training for staff of all levels.

This memo should act as the beginning of your GDPR journey. Our GDPR templates aim to help you and your business get started with implementation and on-going compliance [and specifically our GDPR Data Protection Policy Template].

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¹ This document is available to download from our [GDPR Toolkit](#)