

Introduction

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) represents a significant modernisation of data protection law that takes into account significant new developments in technology and the processing of personal data that simply did not exist at the time of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Landlords are "data controllers" of personal data about current or prospective tenants and guarantors. The GDPR introduces a number of new obligations on data controllers, including a requirement to register with the Information Commissioner (ICO) and requirements relating to "data processing" (collecting, using, storing, transferring, destroying/deleting data).

The GDPR brings with it a number of key changes to data protection law including:

- Enhanced documentation and record-keeping requirements;
- Enhanced privacy notice (data protection notices) requirements;
- Stricter rules on consent to processing;
- A new mandatory requirement to notify the ICO of a data breach;
- Enhanced rights for data subjects (e.g. right to erasure);
- New obligations for data processors;
- New rules requiring the appointment of a Data Protection Officer; and
- New, tougher penalties for non-compliance with the law.

In addition to these headline changes, the GDPR also introduces a new subject matter of all data protection law: the processing of personal data. The definition of "personal data" means: "any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (‘data subject’). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, etc. identity of that natural person."

The core principles of the GDPR are set out in Article 5. Personal data shall be:

- a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals;
- b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered compatible with the initial purposes;
- c) adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
- d) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data are accurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed and without delay;
- e) kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data which are kept for longer periods must be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes

S

or statistical purposes subject to appropriate technical and organisational measures required to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals; and
f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals; and
the security of the personal data, including protection against unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

Under Article 5(2) of the GDPR, the data controller must demonstrate, compliance with the requirements of Article 5(1)(a).

the data controller is responsible for, and be able to demonstrate, compliance with the requirements of Article 5(1)(a).

Data Protection Audit

An essential starting point in compliance, is a Data Audit. This involves identifying what data is held and on what lawful basis. It also records what data is shared with third parties. A completed Data Audit can be used as evidence of compliance (see below).

and being able to demonstrate that compliance with the requirements of Article 5(1)(a). This involves identifying what data is held, why it is held and on what lawful basis. The audit should also record what data is shared with third parties. The completed Data Audit can be used as evidence of compliance (see below).

A

Lawful Basis for Processing

In order for the collection and processing of personal data by a landlord must have a lawful basis under which personal data processing is lawful. Four of these are relevant to landlords:

to be lawful under the GDPR, the data controller must have a lawful basis under which personal data processing is lawful. Four of these are relevant to landlords:

- You have the consent of the data subject for one or more specific purposes;
- The processing is necessary for the performance of a contract with the data subject or to take steps to enter into or perform such a contract;
- The processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the data controller is subject;
- The processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the data controller (the landlord) or a third party, where those interests are overridden by the interests and fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject, particularly where the data subject is a child.

respect to one or more specific purposes; the processing is necessary for the performance of a contract with the data subject or to take steps to enter into or perform such a contract; the processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation; the processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the data controller (the landlord) or a third party, where those interests are overridden by the interests and fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require the protection of personal data, particularly where the data subject is a child.

M

Different conditions apply if the data subject is a child. Different conditions apply if the data subject is a child. Different conditions apply if the data subject is a child. Different conditions apply if the data subject is a child.

on is sensitive personal data or, where the data subject is a child, the data subject is a child. Different conditions apply if the data subject is a child.

P

- You have the explicit consent of the data subject, unless reliance on such consent is prohibited by law;
- The processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation under employment law, social security or social protection law, or collective agreement;
- The processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests of the data subject or another person where the data subject has given their consent, physically or legally, of giving their consent;
- The processing concerns data which has been manifestly made public by the data subject;
- The processing is necessary for the establishment, exercise, or defence of legal claims, or where the courts have jurisdiction.

unless reliance on such consent is prohibited by law; the processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation under employment law, social security or social protection law, or collective agreement; the processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests of the data subject or another person where the data subject has given their consent, physically or legally, of giving their consent; the processing concerns data which has been manifestly made public by the data subject; the processing is necessary for the establishment, exercise, or defence of legal claims, or where the courts have jurisdiction.

L

E

S

The standards of consent under the GDPR are even more so where the data concerned is sensitive personal data. The GDPR is to give data subjects more control over what happens to their data.

even more so where the data concerned is sensitive personal data. The GDPR is to give data subjects more control over what happens to their data.

Under the GDPR, in order to be valid, consent must be:

- Be freely given;
- Specifically state the controller (landlord) requires the person's consent for the purposes of processing undertaken;
- Be requested prominently, in a clear and concise manner, in user-friendly, easy-to-understand language;
- Be obvious, requiring a positive action (e.g. ticking an opt-out box) should be available;
- Be expressly confirmed in writing.

(landlord), the purposes for which the data is processed, the legal basis of processing undertaken; the terms and conditions, in a way that is clear and concise, including that pre-checked boxes and

Consent under the GDPR must be a voluntary action on the part of the data subject. It must be given through the following:

Consent under the GDPR must be a voluntary action on the part of the data subject. It must be given through the following:

- Consent should be separate and should not be a precondition to signing up for a service;
- If you use opt-in boxes to obtain consent, these should not be pre-checked;
- The GDPR requires "granular" consent, meaning separate consent for different purposes;
- Clear records must be kept of consent.

Consent should also generally not be a precondition to signing up for a service. The GDPR expressly prohibits pre-checked boxes for consent. The GDPR requires "granular" consent, meaning separate consent for different purposes. Clear records must be kept of consent.

It is also important to note that consent can be withdrawn at any time. Easy means to exercise it. Moreo... lasts will depend on the context in which it is given.

It is also important to note that consent can be withdrawn at any time. Easy means to exercise it. Moreo... lasts will depend on the context in which it is given.

Having obtained consent, ensure you keep a record of consent, including the identity of the person who consented, when, to what, and where consent was given (for example, your privacy notice).

Having obtained consent, ensure you keep a record of consent, including the identity of the person who consented, when, to what, and where consent was given (for example, your privacy notice).

It is also important to remember that consent is not the only criterion that can be satisfied. For example, a certain amount of consent may be necessary for the management of the contractual relationship between landlord and tenant.

It is also important to remember that consent is not the only criterion that can be satisfied. For example, a certain amount of consent may be necessary for the management of the contractual relationship between landlord and tenant.

Privacy Notice

Landlords must provide certain information to data subjects. This information will often be provided in your Privacy Notice. This depends upon whether you have obtained the data directly from the subject or whether you have obtained it from a third party:

Landlords must provide certain information to data subjects. This information will often be provided in your Privacy Notice. This depends upon whether you have obtained the data directly from the subject or whether you have obtained it from a third party:

Information	Obtained Directly	Obtained from Third Party
Identity and contact details of the data controller's Data Protection Officer	Yes	Yes

A

M

P

L

E

S

A

M

P

L

E

Purpose of collection and process for it.	Yes	Yes
(Where applicable) the legitimate i	Yes	Yes
The categories of personal data.	No	Yes
Details of any third party recipients	Yes	Yes
Details of any "third country" (non-safeguards in place.	Yes	Yes
How long the data will be retained determine how long).	Yes	Yes
The existence of data subjects' rig	Yes	Yes
The data subject's right to withdraw applicable).	Yes	Yes
The data subject's right to complain authority (e.g. the ICO).	Yes	Yes
The source of the personal data, a publicly accessible sources.	No	Yes
Whether the provision of the perso or contractual requirement or oblig consequences of not supplying it.	Yes	No
The existence of any automated d profiling) with details of how the de significance, and the consequence	Yes	Yes

This information should be provided if personal data is obtained directly from the data subject. If the data is obtained from a third party, the information must be provided to the data subject at the time (not more than one month); or, if the data is to be disclosed when communicating with the data subject (e.g. being used to communicate with them); or, if the data is to be disclosed to a third party, before that disclosure takes place.

The Right of Access

Data subjects have the right to access their personal data held by you along with supplementary information. In response to a Subject Access Request ("SAR") you must provide confirmation of whether the personal data you hold on the data subject is being processed; access to the personal data you hold on the data subject; and supplementary information (in broad terms, the same information you would provide in a privacy statement).

Under the Data Protection Act, it is usually £10 - however the GDPR request is "manifestly unfounded or excessive" - you can charge a fee for complying with SARs - you must be free of charge unless the request is "manifestly unfounded or excessive" in which case a "reasonable fee" can be charged for.

You should respond to SARs normally within one month. In the case of complex requests, this can be extended to three months.

The Right to Rectification

Personal data should be accurate and up to date. If a data subject requests the rectification of personal data, you must take reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of the data.

S

any personal data you hold about them. If the request is complex, this can take up to one month to complete. If the request is complex, this can take up to three months.

If the personal data in question has been shared with any third parties, the data subject should be informed of this.

The Right to Erasure

This is also known as the “right to be forgotten”. In broad terms, data subjects have the right to request the deletion or destruction of personal data unless there is a sound reason for retaining it.

The most obvious way of exercising this right is to request your use of their personal data to stop. However, there are some legitimate interests that justifies continuing to process the data:

- When it is no longer necessary for the purposes for which it was originally collected;
- The personal data has been made obsolete by other data;
- The personal data has to be retained for legal reasons.

There are some circumstances where you are permitted to erase personal data. The following are the most common:

- When exercising the human rights of the data subject;
- In order to comply with a legal obligation or the exercise of official authority;
- For the exercise or defence of legal claims.

If any personal data affected by a request has been disclosed to a third party, that third party must also be informed (unless it is disproportionate effort to do so).

The Right to Restrict Processing

If a data subject asserts this right, you must stop processing their personal data, but must not process it. In practice, this may require retaining the data about the data subject so as to ensure that the restriction is respected.

The right to restrict processing applies in the following circumstances:

- If a data subject has information that the personal data you hold about them is inaccurate, processing of that data must be restricted until its accuracy is verified;
- If a data subject objects to you processing their personal data and you are considering whether your business’s legitimate interests (this also applies to the performance of a public interest task) override the data subject’s interests (this also applies to the performance of a public interest task);
- Where the processing is unlawful, the data subject requests restriction; or
- Where you no longer require the personal data, but the data subject requires it to establish, exercise, or defend legal claims.

If any personal data affected by a request has been disclosed to a third party, that third party must also be informed (unless it is impossible or would require disproportionate effort to do so).

A

M

P

L

E

within one month of their request. If the request is complex, this can take up to three months.

If the personal data in question has been shared with any third parties, the data subject should be informed of this.

This is also known as the “right to be forgotten”. In broad terms, data subjects have the right to request the deletion or destruction of personal data unless there is a sound reason for retaining it.

The most obvious way of exercising this right is to request your use of their personal data to stop. However, there are some legitimate interests that justifies continuing to process the data:

- When it is no longer necessary for the purposes for which it was originally collected;
- The personal data has been made obsolete by other data;
- The personal data has to be retained for legal reasons.

There are some circumstances where you are permitted to erase personal data. The following are the most common:

- When exercising the human rights of the data subject;
- In order to comply with a legal obligation or the exercise of official authority;
- For the exercise or defence of legal claims.

If any personal data affected by a request has been disclosed to a third party, that third party must also be informed (unless it is impossible or would require disproportionate effort to do so).

If a data subject asserts this right, you must stop processing their personal data, but must not process it. In practice, this may require retaining the data about the data subject so as to ensure that the restriction is respected.

The right to restrict processing applies in the following circumstances:

- If a data subject has information that the personal data you hold about them is inaccurate, processing of that data must be restricted until its accuracy is verified;
- If a data subject objects to you processing their personal data and you are considering whether your business’s legitimate interests (this also applies to the performance of a public interest task) override the data subject’s interests (this also applies to the performance of a public interest task);
- Where the processing is unlawful, the data subject requests restriction; or
- Where you no longer require the personal data, but the data subject requires it to establish, exercise, or defend legal claims.

If any personal data affected by a request has been disclosed to a third party, that third party must also be informed (unless it is impossible or would require disproportionate effort to do so).

S

disproportionate effort to do so).

The Right to Data Portability

Data subjects, under the GDPR, have the right to receive a copy of their personal data from a data controller in a commonly-used format and to have it transferred to a different data controller. This enables data subjects to move their personal data across different services. As with many other rights, the right to data portability applies only:

- To personal data provided by the data subject;
- Where the personal data is processed by automated means for the performance of a contract;
- Where the processing of the data is based on the data subject's consent or on a contract.

Landlords must respond to requests for a copy of their personal data within one month. This can be extended by up to two months where the request is complex or if you receive a number of requests.

The Right to Object

Under the GDPR, data subjects have the right to object to certain uses of their personal data and must be informed of the right to object. Landlords must stop the data processing if the data subject objects unless you can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds for the processing which override the interests, rights, and freedoms of the data subject or the processing is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Sharing of Personal Data

Landlords may need to share personal data with utility companies and contractors who will be data processors.

Landlords, as data controllers, should have a processing agreement with any third party data processors. However, if the data controller will themselves be data controllers, a processing agreement is required (if the data processor is a self-employed tradesperson) it needs to include:

- The subject matter and the purposes of the processing;
- The nature of the processing;
- The type of personal data to be processed;
- The rights and obligations of the data controller.

As a guide, contracts between data controllers and data processors should contain the following requirements:

- The processor acts only on the instructions of the controller (unless required by law to act without);
- The processor ensures that the data is processed securely;
- The processor takes suitable technical and organisational measures to protect the data.

A

M

P

L

E

copy of their personal data from a data controller in a commonly-used format and to have it transferred to a different data controller. This enables data subjects to move their personal data across different services. As with many other rights, the right to data portability applies only:

- To personal data provided by the data subject;
- Where the personal data is processed by automated means for the performance of a contract;
- Where the processing of the data is based on the data subject's consent or on a contract.

Landlords must respond to requests for a copy of their personal data within one month. This can be extended by up to two months where the request is complex or if you receive a number of requests.

Under the GDPR, data subjects have the right to object to certain uses of their personal data and must be informed of the right to object. Landlords must stop the data processing if the data subject objects unless you can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds for the processing which override the interests, rights, and freedoms of the data subject or the processing is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Landlords may need to share personal data with utility companies and contractors who will be data processors.

Landlords, as data controllers, should have a processing agreement with any third party data processors. However, if the data controller will themselves be data controllers, a processing agreement is required (if the data processor is a self-employed tradesperson) it needs to include:

- The subject matter and the purposes of the processing;
- The nature of the processing;
- The type of personal data to be processed;
- The rights and obligations of the data controller.

As a guide, contracts between data controllers and data processors should contain the following requirements:

- The processor acts only on the instructions of the controller (unless required by law to act without);
- The processor ensures that the data is processed securely;
- The processor takes suitable technical and organisational measures to protect the data.

