Welcome to the first issue of the GDPR Newsletter

The purpose of this Newsletter is to keep you updated on the new European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

It will be an ad hoc publication and the content will include, in particular, any opinions released by the newly formed European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and any new guidance that we issue to assist controllers and processors understand the new requirements.

The GDPR was approved by the European Parliament on 14 April 2016. It will enter into force 20 days after it is published in the Official Journal of the European Union and will be fully enforceable two years after that date.

The GDPR will apply directly to many Island businesses even though it is not enacted in the Island. “Businesses” includes controllers and processors in both the private and public sector.

It applies to personal data processed in connection with the offering of goods or services to, or the monitoring of behaviour of, data subjects in the European Union. It will also impact on businesses that rely on transfers of personal data inward to the Island from EU controllers or processors and will be enforced by Data Protection Authorities in EU Member States, not the Island’s Information Commissioner.

All Island businesses must continue to comply with the requirements of the Island’s Data Protection Act 2002 until such time as that Act is repealed or replaced and remain subject to regulation by the Island’s Information Commissioner for any other personal data processed.

Under the GDPR businesses will be fully accountable for its processing. They must be able to demonstrate and evidence compliance with the requirements of the GDPR bringing data protection into line with other regulatory regimes, such as those imposed under customer due diligence and anti-money-laundering codes.

EU Data Protection Authorities will have significant sanctions, such as the ability to issue stop processing notices, and impose fines. There will also be dissuasive criminal offences.

Non-compliance, for example with the rights of individuals, may result in a fine of up to €20M or 4% global annual turnover.
Start preparing

The two year countdown is on!

Don’t know where to start?
Take a look at our “Know your data: Mapping the 5 W’s”

Publications available

The website already contains information about the GDPR and an awareness-raising presentation, “The GDPR Game Changers”, is available for public use.

The section “Steps towards compliance” seeks to assist Island businesses understand the new requirements and start planning a compliance programme.

An overview document, “The GDPR – Steps towards compliance” and “Know your data: Mapping the 5 W’s”, the first part of our GDPR Toolkit, are now available.

The Toolkit will be added to over the coming months, the content of which will encompass, or be reviewed in light of, opinions released by the EDPB.

The next Toolkit parts planned for release are on the principles, rights and information for processors and details of those will be communicated in subsequent issues of this Newsletter.

An RSS feed is available for news items published on the website.

Get in touch

If you have questions about the GDPR, or would like to make comments about the content of any of our publications, please contact us.