

Timeline – EU data protection reform

Significant developments

Key:

	Major developments in EU/legislative process
	ICO-related events/developments

Date	Development in the EU data protection reform process
1995	First EU Data Protection Directive
1998	Data Protection Act, UK, transposing and implementing the 1995 Directive
2002	Public consultation on the implementation of the EU Data Protection Directive
2007	Communication from the European Commission (EC) - concluding that no update to the Directive was necessary and better implementation should be the focus of regulatory efforts
May 2009	EC launches first public consultation with a view to revise the European data protection framework
July 2010	EC consultation with targeted stakeholders and roundtable
January 2012	EC (EC Vice-President, Commissioner Viviane Reding) publishes proposals to reform European data protection rules, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication outlining the EC's plans • Draft General Data Protection Regulation • Draft Directive on processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties (including police and judicial cooperation) • Impact assessment

February 2012	Initial ICO written analysis published on the EC's proposals for a revised framework.
March 2012	ICO DPO Conference with keynote speech on 'The future of regulation' summarising the ICO view on the EC's proposals by David Smith, ICO Deputy Information Commissioner.
	First Article 29 Opinion on the data protection reform proposals
	ICO conference 'The future of data protection in Europe' London, consulting on stakeholder views on the EC's proposals.
May 2012	European Parliament (EP) – first stakeholder hearing
July 2012	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Cypriot Presidency of the EU) Addresses three key issues for general approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the administrative burden for SMEs; • Assessing necessity of delegated/implementing acts – leaving either for Member State law or specification in for future EU law.
	First EP working document issued by lead rapporteurs MEPs Jan Philipp Albrecht and Dimitrios Droutsas on the EP's approach to the 'EU reform package' (EP view: both Regulation and Directive should be dealt with as a package). MEP Jan Philipp Albrecht (rapporteur: Draft Regulation) and MEP Dimitrios Droutsas (rapporteur: Draft Directive)
September 2012	Data protection reform briefing event at the EP hosted by Sarah Ludford MEP, involving ICO, Ministry of Justice and CBI.
	Christopher Graham - hearing in front of UK Parliament Justice Select Committee consultation on the EC's proposals.
October 2012	Second Article 29 Working Party Opinion on the EU data protection reform proposals, focussing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of personal data • Consent • Delegated acts
	Three further EP working documents issued by MEPs Albrecht and Droutsas on the 'EU reform package'.
	EP-led inter-parliamentary hearing: EP dialogue with national parliaments
	Publication of UK Parliament's Justice Committee report on

	the EC's proposals.
October–December 2012	Publication of draft opinions from four EP committees on the EU data protection reform.
November 2012	Publication of MoJ Impact Assessment on the EU data protection reform.
	ICO launches own research into implications of the EU data protection draft regulation for UK businesses. Research conclusions due Spring 2013.
December 2012	Christopher Graham keynote speech to Forum Europe conference on: The view from a leading DPA on priorities almost one year on from the EC's proposals.
	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Cypriot Presidency of the EU) Statement from Commissioner Reding indicating willingness to negotiate on certain aspects of the EC's proposals eg delegated acts, reducing administrative burden, public sector flexibility.
January 2013	Draft reports from lead rapporteurs MEPs Albrecht and Droutsas, building on their earlier working documents.
	UK Government response to UK Justice Select Committee report on the EU data protection reform.
	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Irish Presidency of the EU) Addresses three key issues for general approach: 1) The so-called "household exemption" (to what extent data protection rules apply to individuals processing data for exclusively personal activities); 2) "Right to be forgotten" and the exemptions from it; 3) Administrative sanctions to be imposed by data protection authorities for breaches of data protection law.
	ICO statement issuing further thoughts in relation to the latest developments in the reform of the EU's data protection legislation. Christopher Graham and David Smith speak to conferences in Brussels.
5 March 2013	ICO EU data protection reform seminar at ICO Annual DPO Conference.
April 2013	Expected vote on the EP's amendments to the EC's proposals in Civil Liberties committee, EP.
April - May 2013	Expected plenary vote in European Parliament – resulting in Parliament First Reading report on the reform.

	Possible trilogue (EC, EP and Council of the EU) to align different institutional views on the EU data protection reform.
June 2013	Expected Council General Approach on the EU data protection reform (end of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU).
End 2013	Conciliation Committee (if Council and EP do not reach agreement)