

FOI request disclosure

IC-310703-Y3P4

NEWS

Published 24 May 2024

UPDATED: General Election announced and what you need to know

Latest Update on Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill - 23/05/24

Today, Penny Mordaunt, Leader of the House of Commons, made a statement announcing the list of the bills expected to pass before Parliament is suspended. The Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill was not included in the list of bills that will be progressed in the Parliamentary 'wash-up' period.

We're aware that the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) is currently working to see if there is space on the wash-up list for some parts of the bill to progress. We will know if they've been successful by the end of tomorrow when Parliament is suspended.

Original article - 22/05/24

Rishi Sunak has announced that a General Election will take place on 4 July.

What happens next?

The election date will be confirmed in Parliament before a period called 'wash up' begins. This is where any unfinished legislation is considered in a shortened timeframe to see what can be passed before Parliament is dissolved. This will include the Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill, and we will be in discussions with the Government about the plans for this bill.

Video message from John Edwards 25 May 2024

Transcript

0:03

Hi everyone from the Northern Ireland Office.

0:05

We got here on Tuesday night and like everybody else we watched the announcement of the general election on Wednesday evening.

0:13

We were on the phone to DSIT.

0:15

We've been trying to keep pace with developments.

0:18

Very disappointed to hear overnight that the DPDI bill has not made it into the wash up.

0:24

So we are now in a kind of hiatus.

0:27

There's a lot of uncertainty.

0:29

We're still working through the implications.

0:31

We will keep communicating with you and let you know as soon as we know anything.

0:36

But we do know that this is going to hold up our plans.

0:39

There's a lot of complexity, but we are working on it.

0:42

We will let you know as soon as we can.

Posted in All ICO



Internal Communications

May 24

Disappointing to hear that the [DPDI bill has not made it into the wash-up period](#) but a big shout out to the Legislative Reform team who've worked so hard to get it to this point.

Find out what happens next over on [Iris](#).



An update on the DPDI Bill

We were made aware late last night that despite discussions which ran right to the wire, the DPDI Bill has not made it into the wash up process.

indigooffice.sharepoint.com

Posted in All ICO



Internal Communications

May 28 • @1

Hi everyone, hope you had a lovely long weekend!

It's been 'Quite a week' and this morning, [Paul Arnold](#) shares a captivating journey of resilience and adaptability with us.

From the implementation of the GDPR/DPA in 2018 to the recent news about the DPDI Bill six years later. He also highlighted the importance of the CIA framework - Control, Influence, Accept - as a powerful approach to navigate challenging situations. Despite the DPDI Bill not making it into the 'washup' process, the teams are already leveraging their work for future use and preparing for the next steps with the new government.

Read more on Paul's reflection [on Iris](#).

NEWS

Published - 28 May 2024

UPDATED: The latest news on the DPDI Bill

Update on the Governance Transition Elements of the DPDI Bill - 28/05/24

The announcement of the General Election means that the governance transition elements of the DPDI Bill won't be taken forward and will need to be introduced through a new Bill in the next parliament.

While this is clearly disappointing, the work we have done in preparing for the proposed changes won't be lost. However, it does mean that, at this time, the recruitment process that has been underway for roles proposed in the Bill will be paused. This includes DSIT's public appointments process for Non Executive Director (NED) roles, as well as the campaign we were running for an interim CEO.

The Executive Team would like to thank the Governance Transition project team for their input into this work.

Original article - 24/05/24

We were made aware late last night that despite discussions which ran right to the wire, the DPDI Bill has not made it into the wash-up period.

This is hugely disappointing given how much time and effort has been invested by so many colleagues over the past two years in this important work. In particular, we'd like to acknowledge the work of the Legislative Reform team who've worked tirelessly to understand and influence this government reform.

Next steps

We'll now review the work we've done on data protection reform to identify what can be usefully fed into our work under shifts of approach, where legislative changes were not strictly required, and to inform how we may need to work with a future government on any new reforms.



ico.
Information Commissioners Office

Knowledge Services

Knowledge pack: Data reform and the DPDI Bill

An update on the DPDI Bill:

The DPDI Bill has been dropped now that parliament is being dissolved for the general election.

You can read the full story here: [An update on the DPDI Bill](#)

An update on the DPDI Bill

The DPDI Bill will not become law now that parliament has been dissolved for the general election.

You can read the full story here: [The latest news on the DPDI Bill](#). See also: [What happens now with the DPDI Bill?](#)

What happens now with the DPDI Bill?

The DPDI Bill will not be passed now that parliament has been dissolved for the general election.

This means that the DPDI Bill will not get Royal Assent and will not become law. If the next government plans to reform data protection law, they would need to introduce a brand new bill.

We'll now review all the work we've done on the bill. We'll use this as an opportunity to identify any areas where we might want to make changes to our own regulatory approach or guidance (where legislative change was not strictly required). We can also use our experience to inform our priorities for any future reforms, and how we'd like to work with the next government.

Remember that we're now in a pre-election period in the run-up to the general election. This means there are now restrictions on what we can say publicly about this. For more information, see: [What's a pre-election period?](#) and make sure you are familiar with the [guidance for civil servants](#).

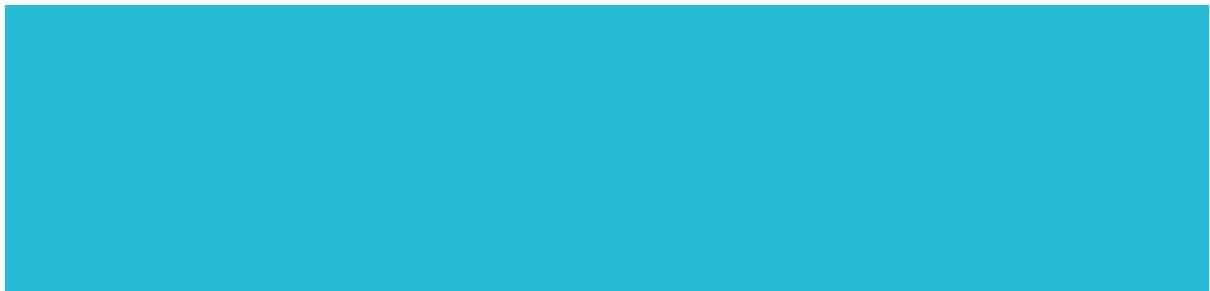
If you do get questions from stakeholders, you can confirm that the DPDI Bill will not become law, and that we stand ready to work with any future government.

If you need it, our full line to take is:

"Following the announcement of a general election which will take place on 4 July, parliament moved into a period of wash-up where any outstanding pieces of legislation were finalised. The ICO was advised that the DPDI Bill had not made it into the wash-up period. This means the bill will not achieve Royal Assent and will not become law.

"The ICO stands ready to talk to any future government in due course and provide expert advice based on our experience of regulating the current legislative framework."

News alert



DPDI Bill update



Following Rishi Sunak's [General Election](#) announcement, we were made aware that despite discussions which ran right to the wire, the Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill has not made it into the pre-election [wash-up](#) period.

This is hugely disappointing given how much time and effort has been invested by so many colleagues over the past two years in this important work. In particular, we'd like to acknowledge the work of the Legislative Reform team who've worked tirelessly to understand and influence this government reform.

John Edwards also talked about the DPDI Bill news in a [brief video message](#) last Friday.

Next steps

We'll now review the work we've done on data protection reform to identify what can be usefully fed into our work under [shifts of approach](#), where legislative changes were not strictly required, and to inform how we may need to work with a future government on any new reforms.

The [pre-election period](#) began on Saturday 25 May. If you've not read it already, please read and follow the 2024 [civil service election guidance](#).

Lines to take with stakeholders

If you get questions from stakeholders about the DPDI Bill, you'll find more information and lines to take on [Knowledge Builder](#).

Blog
Author – Paul Arnold
Published – 29 May 2024

Quite a week

Almost six years later...

Almost six years later to the day and my mobile phone started to ring at just before midnight on Thursday of last week. It was one of several calls that day with the Director of Data Policy at DSIT. This one was the most conclusive, confirming that, despite the best efforts of DSIT officials, the DPDI Bill had not made it into the 'washup' process and so would need to be considered afresh under the new government post the election. I gave a quick thanks for the update and finally tried to get some sleep just after 1am.

A few hours later I was awake again. After that strange period while your brain lazily reminds you of the things you had in your mind before you finally got to sleep, I was back online again with thanks in my mind. It was clearly important for all ICO colleagues to be updated as soon as possible and we did that by updating the Iris piece just after 8.00am. But before that I wanted to get in touch with the DP Reform, Governance Transition, and the Regulatory Design teams. These teams had been working closely with one another and with DSIT to track the progress of the bill, ensure DSIT received our expert advice as the independent regulator (often at breakneck speed) and, of course, prepare the ICO for implementation of a new law.

My thanks were again sincere. Of course, we might expect that having been providing expert advice to successive governments for the best part of a decade on the development of first the DPA 18 and then, almost immediately, the planned DPDI 2024, that we'd be rather good at it by now. This is, of course, a massive understatement.

Not only has the work done to date been of the highest quality, but the response to Friday's news was absolutely superb.

Those of you with any experience of coaching or being coached might be familiar with the CIA framework. No, it's got nothing to do with international espionage. In this context CIA refers to a classic way of approaching situations which might seem hard to navigate. Under the CIA model you basically break things down into:

C – the things you can CONTROL

I – the things you can INFLUENCE

A – the things you need to just ACCEPT

I think this is such a powerful way of thinking about/approaching things. Quite often we can find ourselves burning through lots of energy being frustrated or disappointed by the things we just have to accept because there is nothing we can do about them. At the same time, we can miss opportunities to focus on the things we are still able to control or can still influence.

So it was this model that came to mind on Friday as reports began to reach me of our teams immediately turning their minds to the work we've done on the DPDI Bill which doesn't actually require the Bill to be passed for us to put that work to good use. Likewise, the teams were working through all the analysis and advice we've provided to Government over the past few years in anticipation of it still being needed as the new Government turns its mind to data and digital policy. I'm sure we can expect this at an early stage of the next parliament.

These were the things the teams could control and influence and it was great to see so much energy so quickly being directed to these most constructive of activities.

Like the proverbial London buses, there will almost certainly be another digital/data bill along in no time, and we shall do our job again when it arrives.

As for the week ahead, one of the features of my discussions with DSIT towards the end of last week was making sure to give them enough time on Thursday to do their job. Likewise, once I received the news late on Thursday evening, I was clear with DSIT that we'd leave them to reflect and think about next steps during Friday before we regrouped after the bank holiday weekend. This next week will therefore involve lots of stock taking with DSIT and as mentioned by John in his update on Iris on Friday we'll update further once there's anything material to share.

Our immediate priority will be trying to establish how the planned public consultation on our data protection funding model will be impacted by the election. We are expecting that it will need to wait until after the election, so we'll be working hard to understand what will be involved once the new Government is in place.

So, it was quite a week last week and I thought I'd share the above insight into what I was up to at the business end of it. I'll be in London for most of the coming week, mostly for those conversations with DSIT I mentioned above. I've got out of the habit of doing these weekly blogs so I'll try and get back on the proverbial horse over the summer to provide as much insight as I can as we navigate things.