

Welcome to the ICO's Jan 2019 e-newsletter

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Welcome from the Information Commissioner

Happy New Year!

As 2019 kicks into gear, I can't help but look back at the last 12 months. For me, 2018 was the year that privacy and data security went mainstream - the year that people woke up to the potential of their personal data.

Inboxes got clogged up with emails from companies keen to comply with new data protection laws and suddenly the GDPR became an unlikely dinner table topic.



Our investigation into the inner workings of data-driven political campaigns and the revelations in the Cambridge Analytica - Facebook case, galvanised policy makers and put data protection at the top of the news agenda.

Data rights have scored a direct hit with the public too. I keep hearing about "digital detox". People, now better informed, who are clearing out apps and shutting down accounts in an effort to regain control of their digital self and sever ties with those who don't treat their data with proper, lawful respect.

Data protection remains a priority internationally too. Last year I spoke at several events around the world and, in December, I headed south to speak to my fellow regulators in the Asia-Pacific region. I stopped in Hong Kong to meet with Commissioner Wong - they are out front in their thought leadership on digital ethics and accountability. I spoke to Asia Pacific regulators and other national bodies during my [visit to New Zealand](#) and, in [India I met ministers and tech leaders](#) in that emerging powerhouse.

Back on the home front, I wish you all a prosperous New Year.



Data protection and no-deal Brexit - ICO advice for organisations

Does your organisation receive personal data from the European Economic Area (EEA) or operate in the EEA and send personal data outside the UK? [Our recent blog post](#) set out how the ICO is helping businesses, particularly SMEs that transfer personal data overseas, to prepare for a possible no-deal Brexit.



DPIA guidance updated

We have reviewed our [guidance on Data Protection Impact Assessments \(DPIAs\)](#) under the GDPR to reflect the opinions from the European Data Protection Board (EDPB). The updated guidance includes our published list of processing operations likely to result in high risk and also provides more advice on how to assess whether your intended use of personal data requires a DPIA.



Guide to data protection updated

We have [published our guide to data protection](#), which covers the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR as it applies in the UK. The guide combines the existing ICO guides to the GDPR and Law Enforcement Processing, with the addition of new pages on intelligence services processing and key data protection themes.



Contracts and controllers

We have expanded our guidance on [contracts](#), published guidance on [controllers and processors](#) and published detailed guidance on [controllers and processors](#) and [contracts and liabilities](#).

Consultation on draft ICO Access to Information Strategy

[We want your views](#) on the future of public access to official information in the UK. Our consultation, which will ask a range of questions on how to make freedom of information and associated laws fit for purpose in the years ahead, runs until Friday 8 March and we are giving ICO e-newsletter subscribers exclusive early access.



Investigation into use of personal data of sexual assault victims

We have recently launched an investigation into the potentially excessive use of victims' personal information in cases of rape and serious sexual assault. We will be working closely with police forces, prosecuting authorities, victims and their representatives and other stakeholders to ensure we consider all the facts. [Read more here](#).



Information Commissioner honoured by the Queen

Elizabeth Denham was [awarded a CBE](#) in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for services to protecting information.

In your sector



Data protection checklist for police using databases of suspects

We have created a [new checklist for police Data Protection Officers](#), following our investigation into the Metropolitan Police Service's Gangs Matrix.

Our checklist will help police forces understand what they need to do when using similar databases so that they comply with data protection law.



Pensions cold calling ban

[Unsolicited marketing calls concerning pensions are now illegal in most circumstances](#) following a change in the law.

ICO Investigations Manager Andy Curry said:

“These calls cause untold misery to thousands of people and we are pleased that the law now offers greater protection to stop them being scammed out of their hard-earned pensions by unscrupulous operators.”



Care Homes face fines for failing to pay fee

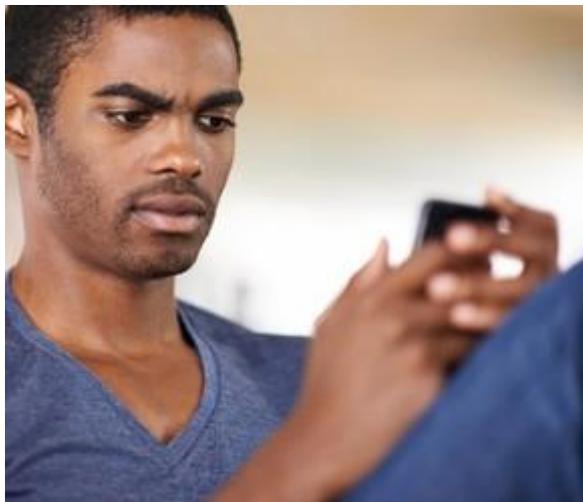
We have taken [enforcement action against several care homes for failure to pay the new data protection fee](#). We issued the first civil penalties to more than 100 organisations for non-payment with the care home sector identified as a particular area of concern.



Nominate your data protection professional of 2019

The Information Commissioner is calling for [nominations for the second Practitioner Award for Excellence in Data Protection](#), to recognise industry professionals who go above and beyond when it comes to implementing data protection in practice. The award was won last year by Esther Watt of North Kesteven Council, pictured here with Elizabeth Denham and Digital Minister, Margot James. This year's winner will be announced at our annual Data Protection Practitioners' Conference, taking place in Manchester on 8 April.

Enforcement Action



London firm fined for sending 14.8m spam texts

Tax Returned Limited has been [fined £200,000](#) for sending out millions of unsolicited marketing text messages without valid consent through a third party service provider.



SCL Elections Ltd

Cambridge Analytica, also known as [SCL Elections](#), has been [fined £15,000](#) and ordered to pay £6,000 costs after pleading guilty at Hendon Magistrates' Court to a charge of failing to comply with an enforcement notice.

[Previous e-newsletters can be viewed on the ICO website.](#)

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