



An tÚdarás Rialála
Seirbhísí Dlí

Legal Services
Regulatory Authority

Data Protection Policy

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Legal Services Regulatory Authority Protection Policy

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1. Introduction

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (the LSRA) collects, processes and stores personal and often sensitive data on an ongoing basis. The Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 together with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) confer rights on individuals as well as responsibilities on those persons and organisations processing personal data.

This policy applies to all data held by the LSRA. This includes electronic and paper records; it also includes any CCTV images in the LSRA.

2. Ownership

The Data Protection Policy is maintained by the LSRA's Data Protection Officer (DPO) and is approved by the CEO and DPO. The policy will be reviewed at least annually by the DPO to ensure alignment to appropriate risk management requirements and its continued relevance to current and planned operations, or legal developments and legislative obligations.

Further comments or questions on the content of this policy should be directed to the DPO. Any material changes to this policy will require approval by the CEO and DPO.

3. Glossary

The following table identifies some of the terms referred to within this policy.

Term	Definition
Data	Information in a form that can be processed. It includes both automated data and manual data.
Automated data	Any information on computer or information recorded with the intention of putting it on computer. It includes not only structured databases but also emails, office documents or CCTV images.
Manual data	Information that is kept as part of a relevant filing system, or with the intention that it should form part of a relevant filing system – this includes temporary folders.
Data Controller	A person who (either alone or with others) controls the contents and use of personal data. A data controller is the individual or the legal person who controls and is responsible for the keeping and use of personal information on computer or in structured manual files.

Term	Definition
Data Processor	A person who processes personal data on behalf of a data controller but does not include an employee of a data controller who processes such data in the course of his employment. If an organisation or person holds or processes personal data, but does not exercise responsibility for or control over the personal data, then they are deemed to be a "data processor".
Data Protection Officer (DPO)	An LSRA appointed officer with responsibility for the Data Protection compliance of the organisation.
Data Subject	A data subject is an individual who is the subject of personal data that is held by a data controller or processed by a data processor.
GDPR	The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - Regulation 2016/679 came into effect on 25 May 2018.
Personal Data	Data relating to a living individual who is or can be identified either from the data or from the data in conjunction with other information that is in, or is likely to come into, the possession of the data controller
Processing	Processing means performing any operation or set of operations on data, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining, recording or keeping data; • Collecting, organising, storing, altering or adapting the data; • Retrieving, consulting or using the data; • Disclosing the information or data by transmitting; • Disseminating or otherwise making it available; • Aligning, combining, blocking, erasing or destroying the data.
Sensitive Personal Data	Any personal data relating to a person's racial origin; political opinions or religious or other beliefs; physical or mental health; sexual life; criminal convictions or the alleged commission of an offence; trade union membership.

4. Scope of Policy Document

This policy has been drawn up by the LSRA and as such is applicable to all LSRA personnel (i.e. staff and contractors) and relevant third party providers.

All staff have a personal responsibility to ensure compliance with the data protection principles and to adhere to the LSRA's Data Protection Policy.

Line Managers are responsible for ensuring compliance with the LSRA's Data Protection Policy within their division. They are also responsible for ensuring that staff in their area are aware of the policy.

The LSRA's Data Protection Policy applies to data records of all types regardless of the medium on which they are held. The functions of the LSRA are set out in section 13 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015.

In carrying out these functions, the LSRA collects and uses information for the following purposes:

- protect and promote the public interest
- support the proper and effective administration of justice
- protect and promote the interests of consumers relating to the provision of legal services
- promote competition in the provision of legal services in the State
- encourage an independent, strong and effective legal profession
- promote and maintain adherence to the professional principles of independence and integrity.

The functions of the LSRA will require it to process data in respect of the following:

1. processing of complaints relating to legal professions (Part 6 of Legal Services Regulation Act 2015);
2. Inspections of legal professional's premises (Part 3 of the Act);
3. Regulation and registration of new business structures (e.g. Legal Partnerships);
4. Imposition of a Levy on professional bodies and certain barristers (Part 7 of the Act)
5. Establishment and maintenance of a Roll of practicing barristers (Part 9 of the Act);
6. Conducting public consultations and research;
7. General correspondence received;

A Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (LPDT) will be established under the 2015 Act and will have its own Data Protection policy.

As part of its role as a data processor, the LSRA is responsible for securing the personal data it obtains, transmits, stores or processes. The following list highlights the type of data that may be processed by the LSRA and is covered by the Data Protection legislation (this list is indicative only, and is not intended to be exhaustive):

- Personal data including:
 - Name, correspondence address (including email address), telephone number;
 - In relation to the establishment of the Roll of Practising Barristers under Part 9 of the 2015 Act, the following data:

Data for Public Facing Roll

- First Name
- Surname
- Other professional name
- Member of the Law Library (Y/N)
- In full-time service of the State (Y/N)

Data for purpose of Administration of Roll (not Public Facing)

- Correspondence address
 - Email address
 - Telephone Contact No
 - Year of Admission by the Honorable Society of King's Inns to the degree of Barrister-at-Law
 - Year and Term of Call to the Bar of Ireland
 - Year of registration as a 'registered lawyer' in Ireland by virtue of the European Communities (Lawyers Establishment) Regulations 2003
 - Confirmation that applicant is appropriate to the Roll
 - Option to allow LSRA share data with Honorable Society of King's Inns to verify qualifications of applicant (applicant can opt in or out)
 - Signature
-
- Sensitive personal data including:
 - Details regarding professional disciplinary measures and/or restrictions to practice.

5. Data Protection Principles

The six principles¹ of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) require that personal data is:

1. Processed in a way that is lawful, fair and transparent;
2. Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes;
3. Adequate, relevant and is limited to what is necessary;
4. Accurate and kept up to date;
5. 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; and
6. Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

Article 5(2) of the GDPR also obliges the LSRA to "be responsible for, and be able to demonstrate, compliance with the principles". GDPR requires that the processing of personal data be conducted in

¹ Article 5

accordance with the data protection principles set out above. The LSRA's policies and procedures are designed to ensure compliance with these principles.

5.1 Personal data must be processed in a way that is lawful, fair and transparent²

Article 6 of the GDPR sets grounds on which personal data processing is lawful. These grounds include where:

- *'processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation.....'*
- *...processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.....'*

Section 37(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 further states that processing is lawful where it is required for *'.....the performance of a function of a controller conferred by or under an enactment or by the Constitution.....'*

The majority of personal data is processed by the LSRA in compliance with its functions conferred under the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015. Personal data is also processed in the performance of functions in the public interest. The LSRA may also process personal data in accordance with certain contracts it has put in place and, in limited circumstances, where it has a legitimate interest in processing specified personal data. In very limited circumstances, the LSRA may request the consent of the data subject to process their data. In such cases, consent will be sought at the time that the data is collected and the data subject will be advised that they can withdraw their consent at any stage during processing.

The LSRA will be fully transparent in relation to how personal data collected is used; in particular ensuring that the data is not used in a way that a data subject would not expect. The LSRA will ensure that the information is provided in an intelligible form using clear and plain language. In order to ensure that the information provided is comprehensive and always accessible, the LSRA may make detailed information available on its website or in booklet format.

5.2 Personal data can only be collected for specific, explicit and legitimate purposes

The LSRA processes personal data only for the purposes for which it is collected.

Any further proposed processing of data (regardless of apparent compatibility with original purpose) will be the subject of an impact assessment to ascertain if it poses a risk to the rights and freedoms of the data subject. This assessment may take the form of a data protection impact assessment (see below).

5.3 Personal data must be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for processing (data minimisation)

The LSRA will ensure that the data collected and held is the minimum amount required for the specified purpose. The LSRA will not collect personal data unnecessary to the business purpose. All

² Article 6 of the GDPR and Section 34 of the Data Protection Act 2018 refer.

personal data requests issued by the LSRA will clearly state the business purpose for the collection of such data.

5.4 Personal data must be accurate and kept up to date

In order to ensure that the functions of the LSRA are delivered efficiently and effectively, the LSRA will ensure that, where possible, all personal data held is kept accurate and up to date. LSRA divisions holding personal data are responsible for ensuring that all manual/computer procedures are adequately maintained and that, where notified of inaccuracies, the personal data will be corrected in a timely manner. Data subjects have the right to have inaccurate data held by the LSRA updated or erased, as appropriate.

5.5 Personal data is only held for as long as is necessary

The LSRA will ensure that a data retention policy is in place, which establishes the length of time that personal data is retained and the purpose(s) of its retention. The LSRA will ensure that data is not be retained for longer than it is required and will be properly destroyed/deleted when it is no longer needed. In this regard, it is important to note that the LSRA has limited control in relation to record destruction due to obligations that arise under the National Archives Act, 1986 and the Freedom of Information Act, 2014.

5.6 Personal data is processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data

The LSRA maintains the highest standards of technical, organisational and physical security measures to ensure that personal data held or processed is secure at all times. Security systems, measures and policies are constantly reviewed and where necessary updated. LSRA staff have undergone training in relation to their personal responsibilities for the protection of personal data.

6. GDPR – Rights of ‘data subjects’

Subject to Section 60 of the Data Protection Act, 2018 and any associated Regulations, the GDPR specifies the following rights for data subjects:

- right to be informed/right of access
- right to rectification
- right to erasure
- right to restrict processing
- right to data portability
- right to object to processing
- rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling

6.1 Right to be informed and right of access

As noted previously data subjects have the right to be informed by the LSRA about the collection and use of their personal data. In addition, they have the right to access their personal data and other supplementary information, as appropriate. The LSRA has implemented procedures to ensure that all such Subject Access Requests (SAR) are responded to within the one month period as required under Article 12 of the GDPR. For details on making a Subject Access Request to the LSRA, see Section 8 of this Policy.

6.2 Right to rectification

Data subjects have the right to have inaccurate personal data held by the LSRA rectified and to have incomplete personal data updated so that it is complete. On receipt of a request from a data subject for rectification of their personal data, the LSRA will take reasonable steps to ensure that the data held is accurate and will ensure that data is rectified, where necessary.

6.3 Right to erasure

Article 17 of the GDPR provides for the right of data subjects in certain circumstances to have their personal data erased ('right to be forgotten'). The right to erasure is not an absolute right and does not apply in circumstances where the LSRA's processing of personal data is necessary in particular:

- for the performance of a function conferred on the LSRA by enactment;
- for archiving purposes in the public interest or statistical purposes; or
- where the data is required for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Where a data subject is of the opinion that elements of personal data held by the LSRA are incorrect, they may make a request in writing to have such data permanently erased. The LSRA will review all such requests and, where appropriate, will erase the data in question.

6.4 Right to restriction of processing³

A data subject has the right to obtain a restriction of processing of their personal data where any one of the following applies:

- the data subject contests the accuracy of their data. The restriction will apply for a period enabling the LSRA to verify the accuracy of the personal data;
- the processing is unlawful and the data subject does not wish to have the data erased, but rather wishes to restrict its use;
- the LSRA no longer requires the data in question but the data subject seeks its retention in order to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim; or
- the data subject has objected to the processing of their data by the LSRA. The restriction will apply pending verification on whether LSRA's legitimate grounds for processing overrides the data subject's concerns.

³ Article 18

As a matter of good practice, the LSRA will restrict the processing of personal data whilst a review of the accuracy of the data and/or the legitimate grounds for processing the data is carried out. This restriction of processing will take into account any Regulations made under Section 60 of the Data Protection Act, 2018.

6.5 Right to data portability

The collection of a significant proportion of personal data by the LSRA is lawful in accordance with Article 6.1(c) or 6.1(e) of the GDPR i.e. *'necessary for compliance with a legal obligation'* or *'necessary for a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller'*. In cases where the LSRA has collected personal data from a data subject by consent or by contract, that data subject can request the LSRA to provide the data in electronic format in order to provide it to another Data Controller. The LSRA will comply with all such legitimate requests.

6.6 Right to object to processing

Under Article 21 of the GDPR, data subjects have a right to object to the processing of their personal data in specific circumstances. Where such an objection is received, the LSRA will assess each case on its individual merits.

6.7 Right not to be subjected to automated decision making⁴

Data subjects have the right not to be subjected to a decision based solely on automatic processing, including profiling, that have a legal or similarly significant effect on them. The LSRA will ensure that no decision issued to a data subject is based on automatic processing alone.

6.8 Complaints

Data subjects who may be concerned that their rights under the GDPR are not upheld by the LSRA can contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO). The DPO will engage with the data subject in order to bring their complaint to a satisfactory conclusion. The DPO's contact details are below. Where the complaint to the DPO cannot be resolved, the data subject will be informed in writing and will be further informed of their right to bring their complaint to the Data Protection Commission.

⁴ Article 22

7. Responsibilities of the LSRA

The LSRA is responsible for the following:

7.1 Implementing and maintaining appropriate technical and organisational measures for the protection of personal data.

The LSRA has implemented appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure that all data held under its control is secure and is not at risk from unauthorised access, either internal or external. Measures for the protection of personal data are reviewed and upgraded, where appropriate, on an ongoing basis.

7.2 Maintaining a record of data processing activities

The LSRA maintains a written record of all categories of processing activities for which it is responsible in accordance with GDPR Article 30

7.3 Data Protection agreements with personal data recipients

On an ongoing basis, the LSRA puts in place appropriate contracts, memoranda of understanding and bilateral agreements with third parties where personal data is shared. This includes state agencies and other government departments. The agreements specify the purpose of sharing the data, the requirements for security of the data and the requirements for termination of the agreement and the return or deletion of the data shared.

7.4 Data Protection by design and default

In accordance with Article 25 of the GDPR, the LSRA implements technical and organisational measures to give effect to the principles of the protection of personal data and to ensure that, by default, only personal data necessary for each specific purpose of the processing are processed. Such measures include the development of organisational policies and procedures such as Acceptable Usage Policy and Digital Communications Policy and the implementation of security measures to secure the data.

7.5 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

Where the LSRA considers that proposed processing (in particular processing that involves new technology), poses a high risk to the rights and freedoms of the data subjects involved, the LSRA will carry out a DPIA. The LSRA's Data Protection Officer will be consulted in relation to each DPIA completed. Where technical and/or organisational measures proposed will not mitigate the high risks previously identified, the Data Protection Commission will be consulted as appropriate.

7.6 Transfer of personal data outside of the European Union

The LSRA will ensure that, prior to transferring any personal data outside of the European Union, appropriate safeguards are in place.

7.7 Personal data breaches

The GDPR defines a personal data breach as meaning *'a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed'*.

LSRA staff will notify its Data Protection Officer where they identify or suspect a breach of personal data. In accordance with GDPR, the DPO will notify the Data Protection Commission without undue delay where a breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of the data subject(s) involved.

The DPO will also assess if the breach is likely to result in a high risk to the data subject(s) involved. Where a high risk is identified, the DPO will arrange for the data subjects to be notified.

7.8 Data Protection Governance

Compliance with the GDPR is a key requirement for the LSRA. The LSRA will oversee, monitor and ensure compliance with data protection legislation through its Risk and Control Framework.

7.9 Data Protection Officer

In compliance with GDPR Article 37.1(a) of GDPR, the LSRA has a designated Data Protection Officer (DPO). In accordance with Article 38, the LSRA will involve the DPO in a timely manner in all issues that relate to the protection of personal data and will support the DPO in performing the tasks referred to in Article 39 (*Tasks of the Data Protection Officer*). The tasks assigned to the LSRA Data Protection Officer in Article 39 include the following:

- Informing and advising the LSRA and staff who process personal data, of their obligations under data protection legislation;
- Monitoring compliance with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and the policies of the LSRA in relation to the protection of personal data, including the assignment of responsibilities, awareness raising and training of staff and the related audits.
- Providing advice where requested as regards the data protection impact assessment and monitoring its performance
- Cooperating with the Data Protection Commission
- Acting as a contact point for the Data Protection Commission on issues relating to processing and prior consultation.

8. Data Protection Contacts

Data Subjects have the right to be informed by the LSRA about the collection and use of their personal data. In addition, they have the right to access their personal data and other supplementary information, as appropriate.

The LSRA has implemented procedures to ensure that all such Subject Access Requests (SARs) are responded to within the one month period as required under Article 12 of the GDPR.

The Subject Access Request (SAR) form for the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) can be found on the LSRA's website [here](#).

Data Protection Officer

Data Protection Officer
The Legal Services Regulatory Authority
PO Box 12906
Dublin 2

Email: dpo@lsra.ie

The contact information for the LSRA's Data Protection Officer is published on the LSRA's website and has been notified to the Data Protection Commission.

Data Protection Commission

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