

The (EU) General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) legislation comes into effect on 25th May 2018. It strengthens the rights of individuals to control the holding of their personal information by third parties, providing more accountability and transparency, and enhances the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. Currently there is a Data Protection Bill going through Parliament in support of GDPR. Once passed, it will replace the 1998 Act as the primary piece of data protection legislation.

The published GDPR Guide helps organisations to understand the key elements and to reach compliance. See link <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

All organisations must establish internal procedures for handling personal information. The GDPR applies to 'personal data', meaning any information relating to any person who can be directly or indirectly identified, in particular by reference to an identifier. The definition covers a wide range of identifiers (names, addresses, email etc).

Organisations must have a lawful basis for processing personal data. There are six lawful bases for such processing and at least one of these must apply whenever personal data is processed. After study of the Guide, we have concluded that 'Legitimate interests' is the most appropriate basis for the Association.

We are required to inform our members of their rights under the GDPR and have published an explanatory 'Privacy Statement' - see our website under 'Data Protection'. This important document sets out the relationship between the membership and the Association regarding the processing of members' personal details.

May 15th 2018