

The GDPR, or Regulation 2016/679 of the European Union and of the Council, entered into force on 24 May 2016.

Island businesses subject to it must be fully compliant with all the requirements by 25 May 2018.

There is a lot to do and time for action is ticking away.



The Isle of Man attended the European data protection authorities' annual Spring Conference in Budapest.

Unsurprisingly, the GDPR was the main agenda topic and the European Data Protection Supervisor, Giovanni Buttarelli, spoke about the role of the new European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and the GDPR consistency mechanism.

In particular, it was strongly intimated that any guidance published by the EDPB would be considered 'legal guidance'. Publications released by data protection authorities (DPAs) should be considered as best practice advice based, as far as possible, on the EDPB guidance. This should result in consistency across the EU and assist controllers and processors to apply and interpret the new rules. The first publications by the EDPB are anticipated in late Autumn 2016.

Will the GDPR be implemented in the Isle of Man?

In the Tynwald sitting on 17 May 2016 the Hon. Member for Garff (Mr Rodan) asked the Chief Minister a question on the **"EU General Data Protection Regulation – Details; preparation for introduction in Isle of Man"**. Hansard records the Chief Minister's response as:

"[S]ince the EU General Data Protection Regulation was first proposed in January 2012, it has been actively monitored and reviewed by the Cabinet Office, and previously the Chief Secretary's Office. It has also recently been discussed in the National Strategy Group and will shortly be considered by the Council of Ministers.

Due to the length and complexity of the Regulation, rather than go into great detail here, I intend to circulate an information note for Members on the Regulation and the changes it will bring to data protection"

In response to the supplementary question on implementation, the Chief Minister stated:

"the Council of Ministers will be considering these matters very shortly. This will include consideration of new legislation, to maintain the Island's current adequacy ruling which allows information to be transferred between the EU and the Isle of Man."

Although no time-frame was set out, it seems the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers are considering the GDPR and its implementation in the Island.

Training opportunities

Whilst the Information Commissioner is pleased to be invited and attend events to raise awareness of the GDPR, due to the size of the office and the additional responsibilities for Freedom of Information, the Information Commissioner will not be running CPD training events.

However, the Information Commissioner has assisted professional associations to arrange training on the Island by, amongst others, Amberhawk and PDP. You may wish to contact your professional body to ascertain whether they are providing training events.

Publications available

The following publications are available for public use in the website section "[Steps towards compliance](#)":

["The GDPR Game Changers"](#) - An awareness-raising presentation

["The GDPR – Steps towards compliance"](#) - An overview of the GDPR

["Know your data: Mapping the 5 W's"](#) – GDPR Toolkit Part 1:

An [RSS feed](#) is available for news items published on the website.

New publications

Part 2 of the GDPR Toolkit is ready for release.

["Accountability: a questionnaire for senior managers"](#), provides the sort of sample questions that should be considered by senior management in order to gauge the basic level of compliance and provide an indication of how well (or not) the business meets the new requirements. An honest appraisal should give an indication of the work that, potentially, is needed.

Regulators, law and advisory firms are regularly publishing further advice and guidance on preparing for the GDPR. Take time to check the links from the "[Compliance resources](#)" section of our GDPR pages.

Get in touch

If you have questions about the GDPR, or would like to make comments about the content of any of our publications, please [contact us](#).

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