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Message from the Commissioner

As 2022 draws to a close, I want to take the opportunity to look back at some of the work we have done during this past year and why that work has value to our community and Bailiwick.



Firstly, whether we like it or not, we are all immersed in data (information/facts/opinions about people) and that data has the power to shape our lives in positive and negative ways. Secondly, we want to be open and accountable to our community about what we are doing and why we are doing it. Accountability is at the heart of data protection legislation and the compliance standards required of anyone handling personal data.

Every strand of our work flows from our strategic plan where we highlight our key areas of activity based on the specific duties our office is given under the data protection law.

The area people tend to be most aware of is enforcement and we have published some important public statements this year following investigations. One of the purposes of any public statement is that it allows the regulated community to learn and improve.

But it is also important to highlight that it is rare to come across an individual or organisation deliberately setting out to ignore the Law's requirements. Most are simply struggling to understand the legislation and translate its requirements into their own processes. When we get an opportunity to <u>spend some time with organisations</u>, we almost always help navigate them to a better place.

Doing things well and respecting people's rights over their data of course takes time and effort. But because of data's huge value, that time and effort is worthwhile. So, communications – engaging, informing, empowering our community – are also a hugely important strand of our work.

Supporting people to make good decisions around data and look after it well, will lead to fewer people seeking the redress the law gives them. We work proactively with representative groups from the data protection community, and other sectors, to <u>respond rapidly to risks such as phishing</u>, issuing clear and relevant guidance. It also means that, even though we are a small team, we can join forces with others.

Our partnership with the Youth Commission enables us to reach and engage a far greater number of local children about the risks of sharing personal information online than previously possible. Known as Project Bijou Seeds, it is an offshoot of Project Bijou, our social initiative to share stories, knowledge and experiences related to ethical data use.

<u>Project Bijou Seeds</u> aims to drive cultural change by positively engaging all children and young people in understanding how valuable their personal data is, why it must be protected and why we must treat others well too. It is also a vital part of the ODPA's commitment, and statutory obligation, to promote greater public awareness of the rights people have under data protection law but also the risks in relation to personal data processing, especially when it involves children.

And as we mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have also linked up with the Guernsey Community Foundation to support local charities carrying out their data protection obligations, and we look forward to extending this work next year.

We may be responsible for a significant piece of legislation, but we also recognise the need for everyone to be included. Understanding rights and protections is not the preserve of legal professionals, it is for everyone.

Emma Martins
Data Protection Commissioner

REMINDER: registration window open from 1 January - 28 February

If you are established in the Bailiwick and work with personal data (information/facts/opinions about people), it will shortly be time to renew your annual registration with us. You can complete this process at any point whilst the registration window is open (from the beginning of January till the end of February), please visit_odpa.gg/registration for more information.





Beyond our shores

We have launched a new feature on our website, 'Beyond our shores', a monthly round-up of data-related developments from around the world. <u>December 2022's summary</u> inclues details of a <u>265 million euro fine for Facebook's data scraping practices</u> and warnings about <u>serious privacy and security risks posed by two World Cup apps</u>.

World Children's Day

On World Children's Day on 20 November 2022, Bailiwick Data Prote4ction Commissioner Emma Martins took the opportunity to explore in this blog how protecting children's data in an increasingly digital world is fundamental to respecting and protecting the rights of children around the world.



CIISF & Islands Data Protection Forum Christmas Drinks event:

Bailiwick of Guernsey Data Protection Commissioner Emma Martins will be speaking at the Channel Islands Information Security Forum and Islands Data Protection Forum Christmas Drinks. She'll be reviewing 2022 and looking ahead to 2023.

Find out more information and reserve a spot here: <u>Christmas Drinks - Channel Islands Information</u>
<u>Security and Data Protection Tickets, Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 5:00 PM</u>

You might also be interested in these two forthcoming events:

- Data safeguarding masterclass for small businesses (12 Jan 2023 12:00)
- Protecting your business, protecting people's data: five key steps to take in 2023 (2 Feb 2023 12:00).

Principles to protect against phishing.

As phishing attacks become ever more sophisticated, <u>here are four principles</u> you can follow to keep your sensitive information safe. You may also be interested in our related podcast: <u>'Life in a connected world'</u>. It explores whether we safely use internet connected devices that we surround ourselves with and do we understand the risks?





Transferring people's data outside the Bailiwick? Important deadline approaching

By 27 December 2022, all local organisations who rely on the European Commission's Standard Contractual Clauses (EC SCCs) to safely transfer people's data outside of the Bailiwick will have to ensure they are using the updated <u>Standard Contractual Clauses</u>, <u>published in June 2021</u>.

Find out more here.

Last chance to leave drop-in feedback

Since 2019 we have been offering <u>free drop-in sessions</u>. They are normally held fortnightly between 09:00–12:00 on either Tuesday/Wednesday mornings. During our <u>annual registration period</u> (beginning of January - end of February) we increase their frequency to weekly. They are open to any organisation that has a general enquiry, and they are an opportunity to spend some time with a member of our team who will give advice and guidance.

Tell us how we can improve on these sessions to make sure they are addressing your needs.

Free support and advice, and public engagement

We know the data protection landscape can seem difficult to navigate sometimes, and we are here to help. We regularly publish guidance and resources to support all organisations in their own approach to compliance with our local data protection law. You can access our broad range of online resources and guidance via the links below:

Support and Advice:

- Fortnightly drop-ins
- Study Visits
- Events (view recordings of past events here)
- Podcasts
- Information Hub
- Beginner's Area (includes 'The Feel-Good Guide to Data Protection')
- Bi-monthly breach statistics
- Newsletters

Public engagement:

- Children and young people
- <u>Project Bijou</u>



<u>Suggested reading: You Look Like a thing and I Love You by Janelle Shane</u>

<u>Read our Commissioner's latest book review</u> and discover her other recommended reads of 2022.



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