



*Excellence through ethics*

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### [Message from the Commissioner](#)

Every now and then, I read or hear something that makes me sit up straight. Something that eloquently expresses why data protection is fundamentally about putting people first.



On this occasion it came in the form of a newly published book I started reading, which is also this month's [reading recommendation](#).

The opening gambit is that we have lost sight of what is truly at stake in relation to technological development.

That is pretty damning, but I also think it is true. Equally, we have an opportunity to reframe our conversations and our approach.

If we launch headfirst into a tick box exercise around data protection compliance, there is every chance that we perceive it as an evil necessity and only do the minimum required to get a tick into the box.

If we stop seeing tick boxes and start seeing the faces of the human beings behind the data – including ourselves and our friends and family, we are likely to look at things a little differently.

If we stop seeing the protection of data as something to defend organisations from and start to see it as something we are all entitled to, that is also likely to make us look at things a little differently.

The approach we take at the ODPA is not accidental. It is an approach with the human being at its heart. We want to help encourage better, more human engagement with the framework of legal protections.

This is not an approach that will work for everyone. Some people will never care. Some people are motivated only by the threat of enforcement.

But, I believe that the vast majority of us do care what happens to our private information, what our doctor does with our medical notes, what our bank does with our financial information, what our employer does with our HR file, what the school does with our children's records.

Data protection is simply the setting into statute of those things that we care about and value in our lives. That is the good fortune and privilege of living in a democracy.

We may not give it much thought, but I would encourage you to take a moment to imagine life without these protections.

It gets to the heart of what it is to be human. It is about dignity, autonomy, equality. The next time that data protection elicits an eye-roll or a sigh or a grunt of frustration, take a moment to reflect on these things.

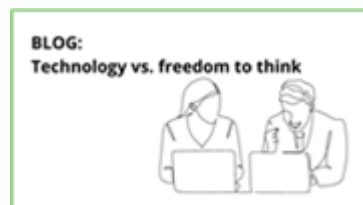
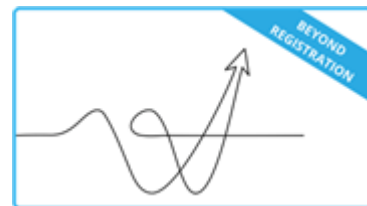
We are responsible for regulating the law. That means dealing openly and accountably with complaints, investigations and enforcement.

It also means working to expand conversations beyond tick box compliance to help us all get the protection of our personal data right.

Emma Martins  
Bailiwick of Guernsey Data Protection Commissioner

### [Beyond registration](#)

Our registration period is now closed. We would like to thank our regulated community for their engagement with the process. Remember that registering is just the start - [find out what your legal obligations are when working with people's data](#).



### [Blog: Technology vs. Freedom to think](#)

In her [most recent blog](#), the Bailiwick's Data Protection Commissioner, Emma Martins, considers whose interests are being served by the recent expansion of AI technologies, and whether it risks putting one of our most innate freedoms in danger.

## Safer Internet Day 2023



On 7 February we marked Safer Internet Day, a global initiative to help young people and children around the world to use the internet safely and responsibly.

The ODPA is committed to raising awareness of children's rights regarding their personal information, particularly while navigating the digital world. It is at the heart of [Project Bijou Seeds](#), a resource-rich programme developed by teachers to positively engage all children and

## Beyond our shores



Every month we publish a round-up of data related developments from around the world.

[You can read February's edition here](#), highlights include:

- The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) published its opinion on the draft adequacy decision regarding the EU - US Data Privacy Framework.

young people in: how valuable their personal data is, why it must be protected and why we must treat others well too. [We made this video to help children understand why looking after personal data matters by comparing it to their favourite toy.](#)

- The UK's Children's Charity NSPCC called on the UK government "to give all children a powerful voice and representation in future regulation by creating a statutory child safety advocate through the Online Safety Bill.
- The UK Department for Education published guidance on 'Data Protection in Schools'.

### **[News in brief:](#)**

- February may be the shortest month of the year but we managed to squeeze a lot in, starting with the publication of our new [Strategic Plan](#) (2023-2026).
- [Public Statement issued](#) in relation to an order imposed on The Committee (for) Health and Social Care covering data protection training and governance.
- We published **new** guidance on [Subject Access Requests](#) for data subjects who want to know how to make a subject access request (SAR), what they should receive back, and what to do if they're not happy with what they receive.
- Find out [10 common pitfalls](#) to avoid when handling people's data and practical steps to mitigate.
- We have **updated** our [personal data breach reporting guidance](#).
- A new edition of our 'Feel Good Guide to Data Protection' has been published, this time in [Latvian](#). It is also available in Portuguese and English.
- Finally we have scheduled two new events: [How to respond to 'data subject access requests'](#) (27 April) and [Data protection in the workplace](#) (30 March).

### **[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](#)
- [Project Bijou](#)

[Suggested reading: 'Beyond Data: Reclaiming Human Rights at the Dawn of the Metaverse' by Elizabeth Renieris](#)

[Read our Commissioner's latest book review](#) and discover her recommended



reads.



*Coming  
Soon*

### Coming soon

We are making some planned improvements to our newsletter shortly - you will continue to receive your subscription as normal. [Please contact us with any suggestions/requests for future newsletters.](#)



**The Office of the Data Protection Authority**

[St Martin's House, Le Bordage, St. Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1BR](#)

+44 1481 742074

[enquiries@odpa.gg](mailto:enquiries@odpa.gg)

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