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## Message from the Commissioner

Welcome to newsletter #32.

Both personally and professionally this has been a time like no other and, whilst we have all had very different experiences, we have all been affected in some way.

As we look ahead to the end of 2021 and towards the beginning of a new year, we are reminded of the fact that the challenges we were facing this time last year are, sadly, still very much present in our lives. This in turn means that some of the changes we have had to make to minimise the public health risks for ourselves and our community will remain in place for some time to come.



In amongst the very real hardships that the pandemic has caused, we must also recognise the way in

which we as individuals and as the Bailiwick have worked together to ensure that we do all we can to manage the social and economic impact in a focused and positive way.

Like so many other offices, we have had to make adjustments to many of our activities and working practices, but we remain absolutely committed to continuing the work to position the Bailiwick as a trusted and well-regulated jurisdiction for the data-driven, digital era. We are clear that doing so requires more than just reacting when things go wrong and seek to embed a culture of data governance across all sectors – supporting and enabling our regulated community to make decisions that are good for their business, good for individuals and good for our Islands.

One of the important pillars of that work was the launch of Project Bijou earlier this year, a project aimed at broadening conversations around the ethical use of personal data. It is a project we will continue to develop in the coming months and years. [Find out how you can get involved here.](#)

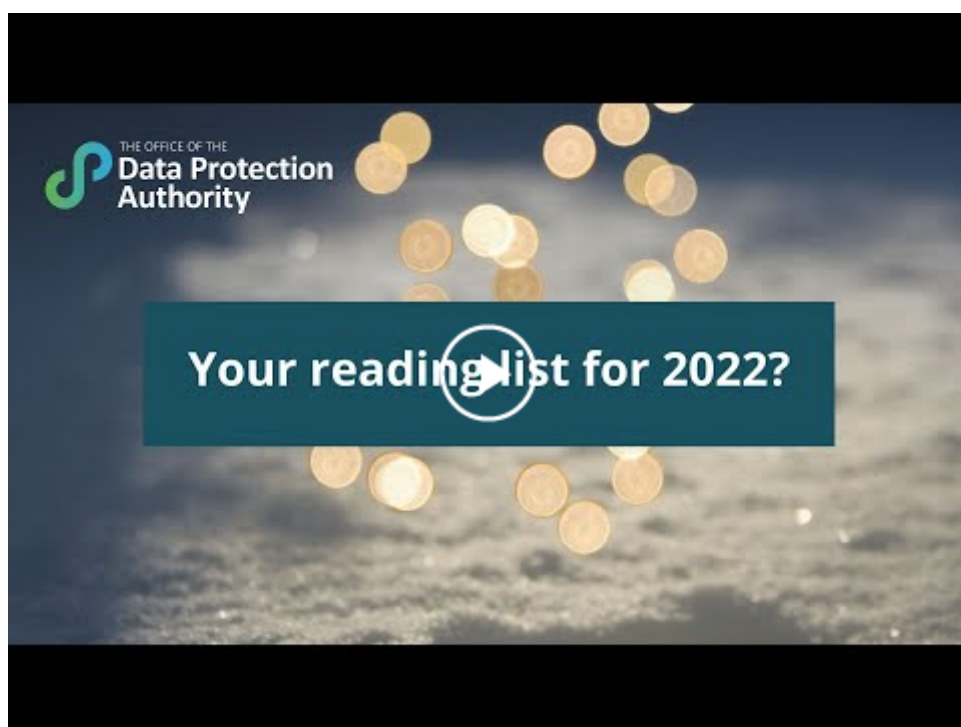
2021 has also been important for this office as it has seen us move to a fully self-funded position with implementation of a new registration regime. Ensuring we are able to function with complete independence is such an important part of ensuring our community has trust and confidence that we act without fear or favour in all that we do.

If you are established in the Bailiwick and work with personal data, remember it will shortly be time to renew your annual registration with us. The registration window is open from the beginning of January till the end of February, [please visit odpa.gg/registration](https://odpa.gg/registration) for more information.

Maintaining your registration with us not only ensures you fulfil this legal obligation, but also ensures we can lead from the front in data protection which benefits us as citizens as well as our jurisdiction. Thank you for engaging with us in registration and compliance matters and the ODPa team wish you, your friends, family and colleagues a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

- Emma Martins

Data Protection Commissioner



### [Your reading list for 2022?](#)

Our gift to you this year is [our Top Five book recommendations](#) - maybe you will buy one for a loved-

one, or yourself. Want more than just the top five?

[Read all book recommendations going back to 2018 here.](#)

### [Arrangements during Christmas/New Year break](#)

- We are working from home due to the recent advice from the States of Guernsey. Please see [odpa.gg/WFH](https://odpa.gg/WFH) for details of how to contact us.
- We will be taking a break from lunchtime on Christmas Eve, and resuming work on Tuesday 4 January (note: our [enquiries inbox](#) will be monitored throughout this break period).



### [REMINDER: registration window open from 1 January - 28 February](#)

If you are established in the Bailiwick and work with personal data, remember 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](https://odpa.gg/registration) for more information.

### [Suggested reading:](#)

Each month our commissioner provides suggested reading to help you make sense of and safely navigate our data-driven society.

This month's choice is: *Human Compatible – Artificial Intelligence and the Problem of Control* by Stuart Russell



Stuart Russell is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Russell is best known for his work exploring artificial intelligence and for co-authoring *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach* which is used in universities across the world.

In this recently published book, he brings us a sobering dose of reality about the potential future of superhuman artificial intelligence which is both fascinating and not a little terrifying. But rather than presenting us with a 'fait-accompli' dystopic scenario, Prof. Russell points out the power we all have to

make the future we want but only if we start to think differently about what we want our relationship with AI to look like and how we deliver on that.

This book is profound both in its intellectual excellence but also, importantly, in its simplicity of message - “the solution to this problem seems to be cultural, not technical. We will need a cultural movement to reshape our ideals.”

That is a critical message for us all because it is only collectively that we can look to cultural change. It is not the preserve of technologists, lawyers or regulators to determine the direction of travel in this. It affects each and every one of us so each and every one of us should have our voices heard.

Please review what newsletters you want from us



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