



Your latest monthly update from The Office of the Data Protection Authority.

Highlights...



[Guernsey keeps adequacy status](#)

The European Commission's decision confirms that the Bailiwick is a leading jurisdiction for safe and secure data. It allows for the free flow of data between the Bailiwick and the European Union, which is vital for our economy.

Data protection registration and renewal window opens January 2024



[Annual registration reminder](#)

Our annual registration period is now open until the end of February 2024. If you work with data about or related to identified (or identifiable) living people you are legally obliged to maintain an annual registration with us.

This month's update from our Commissioner, Brent Homan

A month ago, I arrived here in beautiful Guernsey with my wife, daughter and pet pug Ernie. We have been heartened by the warm welcome we have received as we join your island community.

I wanted to start by thanking once more my predecessor Emma Martins and her team for the outstanding job they have done in serving the data protection interests of Guernsey and its residents.

It is my privilege to build on that foundation towards the goal of establishing Guernsey as a model for the global data protection community.

The year got off to a flying start with international recognition of the island's robust data protection safeguards and policies following the [European Commission's decision to uphold Guernsey's adequacy status](#) after a four-year review.

This is a significant achievement for the Bailiwick as a non-EU 'third country,' which demonstrates how it met higher data protection standards contained within the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

It is also excellent news for Guernsey residents and the Bailiwick economy which is largely driven by a financial services sector where protected data flows are of paramount importance.

But adequacy is an ongoing, Bailiwick-wide responsibility. On that point we look forward to further partnership with our regulated community towards preserving Adequacy, with a public and private sector that embraces compliance and elevates the level of trust and consumer confidence.

Before moving to Guernsey, I was Deputy Commissioner at Canada's Office of the Privacy Commissioner. In 2012, I set up the Global Privacy Enforcement Network (GPEN) Privacy Sweep which is an annual collaborative initiative where data protection authorities around the world join forces to shine a light on a key issue or trend.

The ODPa is taking part in this year's Privacy Sweep on 1 February and will be examining the gambling sector through the lens of the privacy theme of 'Deceptive Design Patterns' also known as 'Dark Patterns'. This occurs when websites or apps deliberately try to deceive you into making unintended, unwilling or potentially harmful decisions.

Our sweep objectives include: (i) broadening public and corporate awareness of privacy rights and responsibilities, (ii) encouraging compliance and (iii) creating greater consumer trust by demonstrating a coordinated domestic and international regulatory presence. I look forward to sharing the findings with you later this year.

Although the Bailiwick is a world away from Canada, there are also many similarities, particularly the value and emphasis both our communities place on supporting and protecting our younger generation.

[Project Bijou Seeds](#) is the ODPa's dedicated outreach programme to engage children in the Bailiwick. It forms part of our strategic plan and statutory obligation to raise children's awareness of their rights. I would urge Guernsey's residents, businesses, organisations and educators to contribute to our [Public Consultation on the Children's Framework](#). Every voice in the Bailiwick is needed and valued. Clearly, the more viewpoints we have, the better we can serve and protect the rights of our children.

This month's newsletter features a new addition, the Commissioner's Corner. Each month I'll delve into a privacy issue which has attracted headlines or attention across the globe. This month it's a brief dive into text fraud and how commercial scams are increasingly targeting personal information.

I am also grateful to be invited to speak at the [Islands Data Governance Forum half-day conference](#) on 30 January as part of our Data Protection Day awareness campaign. I hope to see many of you there and look forward to sharing with you our vision for the Bailiwick's data protection landscape, and hearing about your experiences and challenges.

It is a true privilege to serve the citizens of the Bailiwick of Guernsey as its Data Protection Commissioner. Alongside my exceptional team,

I very much look forward to promoting a vibrant and innovative Bailiwick government and economy where individuals' privacy rights are cherished and respected.

Brent Homan
Data Protection Commissioner
Bailiwick of Guernsey

Headlines...

ODPA celebrates Data Protection Day with focus on children's rights

28 January 2024



[Focus on children's rights for Data Protection Day 2024](#)

We are marking international Data Protection Day by calling upon children, parents, schools and all other bodies who care about children's data to contribute to an open public consultation:

[Children's Framework.](#)

Advice on protecting yourself from text scams

Crimes involving the theft of personal information are on the rise and increasingly sophisticated, so it has never been more important to protect your data, particularly online.

Here is a short checklist of actions you can take to protect yourself:



1) Practice vigilance with texts and emails. Texts and emails can easily be forged, attachments can contain malware that can steal your personal information. Someone you know may have had their account compromised.



3) Think before you click. Do you know this person or deal with this organisation? Is this how the person or company normally contacts you? Don't open texts, attachments or emails without being sure of the sender.



2) Be on guard for red flags. Is there an urgency to action or call-back? A link to a log in page? A phone number to call for help? An enticing attachment? Beware!

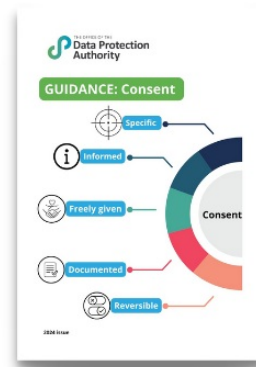


4) Protect your passwords. Use different passwords for different websites, accounts and devices. Two-factor authentication is best. And regularly update security settings!

[Advice on protecting yourself from text scams](#)

Crimes involving the theft of personal information are on the rise and increasingly sophisticated, so it has never been more important to protect your data, particularly online. We've prepared a short checklist of actions you can take to protect yourself.

New guidance on consent published



[New guidance on consent](#)

Consent is one of the most misunderstood aspects of data protection law - read our simple guidance to find out what it really means.

News in brief...

Data Protection Authority Board member Nicola Wood awarded MBE



[Honour for board member](#)

Data Protection Authority Board member Nicola Wood, was awarded an MBE in the UK's [New Year Honours List](#) for her service to regulation. We are delighted that her hard work and dedication to the field have been recognised.

2024 Annual Survey launched



[2024 Annual Survey launched](#)

If you have 30 seconds to spare, we'd love to hear your responses to the [4 key questions in our Annual Survey](#).

A data protection vision for Guernsey: embracing compliance and elevating confidence



[A data protection vision for Guernsey: embracing compliance and elevating confidence](#)

In his first blog as Bailiwick Data Protection Commissioner, Brent Homan outlines his ambitious vision for the future of regulation in the islands.

[Beyond our shores](#)

What impact will AI have on democracy in 2024? Find out more with our monthly round-up of recent data-related

**Beyond
our
shores**



developments from around the world.

New feature...

Commissioner's Corner



A monthly spotlight on a privacy issue making waves around the globe...

This month's newsletter features a new addition, the Commissioner's Corner. Each month Brent Homan will delve into a privacy issue which has attracted headlines or attention across the globe. This month it's a brief dive into text fraud and how commercial scams are increasingly targeting personal information.

January's Commissioner's Corner

We have all had that experience. Casually walking our dog when a notification bell goes off on our mobile. You check and it's an urgent text message from your bank warning you that your info or credit card has been compromised and you need to take *immediate action!* It assaults your emotions and creates a sense of anxiety and urgency. You think it may be an error, but what if it is not? You were holiday shopping online last week - what if your card was compromised in one of those transactions? How do you protect yourself?

The answer is simple, **don't take the bait! *Ignore it, Delete it, and Report it!***

It's a scam and the fraudsters are not just after your financial details, but your valuable personal information that can then be used for identity theft and worse.

It is a crime that reveals an intersection of risks between the Consumer Protection and Data Protection realms, and that resulted in the theft of significant amounts of money being stolen in the Channel Islands by criminals posing as HSBC in January.

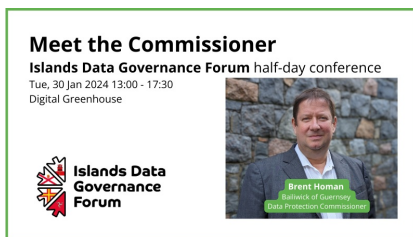
The good news is that there are simple steps that can be followed to protect you and your personal information. In addition to warnings by Guernsey Police, on 15th January the ODPa issued a [Data Protection Advisory](#) highlighting the following actions that can be taken to avoid

falling victim to fraud:

1. **Practice vigilance with texts and emails.** Texts and emails can easily be forged, attachments can contain malware that can steal your personal information. Someone you know may have had their account compromised.
2. **Be on guard for red flags.** Is there an urgency to action or call-back? A link to a log in page? A phone number to call for help? An enticing attachment? Beware!
3. **Think before you click.** Do you know this person or deal with this organisation? Is this how the person or company normally contacts you? Don't open texts, attachments or emails without being sure of the sender.
4. **Protect your passwords.** Use different passwords for different websites, accounts and devices. Two-factor authentication is best. And regularly update security settings!

Data Protection is everyone's responsibility, by being vigilant and informed we can all do our part to protect ourselves and our community.

Coming soon...



Islands Data Governance Forum Conference

Data Protection Commissioner Brent Homan shares his vision for Guernsey as a "model jurisdiction in the global community." **Tuesday 30 January from 1pm** at the **Digital Greenhouse.**

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