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[Message from the Commissioner](#)

Presenting the two Bijou Awards to the very [worthy winners](#) at last month's awards event (run by [Islands Data Governance Forum](#)) will stay in my memory for a very long time.

How wonderful to have a chance to celebrate those people who go above and beyond and who make such a positive difference in our community.



Data has become such a fundamental part of our lives, often in ways we are entirely oblivious to, that the sheer scale of the issue needs us to look at it from a different and more inclusive perspective.

And this is why it is so important to recognise the efforts of individuals from all walks of life who are reframing our understanding of harms and reframing what we mean by good outcomes and how we can best work together to achieve them.

Because there are good outcomes. Where individuals are treated with dignity and equality, our economies thrive on using our data in ethical as well as legal ways.

But we have to acknowledge that, at this time, there is a disconnect. You may not see yourself as a data or tech expert or privacy professional. And most people see data and its protection as only being a technical or legal issue. It is those things, but it is also so much more.

When we think of data, what should come to our minds are the faces of our family and friends, our colleagues, our fellow citizens – people we care about.

And if we care about something, there is a deeper, more personal connection.

I'm not sure anyone has ever had an epiphany after reading the text of any data protection law. But we do have epiphanies when we realise we are directly connected to certain things and directly impacted by them.

And you are connected, and it does impact you. This is not, and must not become, the preserve of regulators, lawyers or technologists alone.

We need this conversation to move beyond impenetrable legal and policy language and become more relatable and more inclusive.

[Project Bijou Seeds](#) is one of the ways in which we are seeking to do this. Part of our Strategic Plan, it is a programme of education and support for children and young people which has already proved hugely successful since its launch in [partnership with the Youth Commission](#) a year ago.

We are very excited about the [recent competition](#) and have been delighted with the number of entries. Project Bijou Seeds continues to form a core part of our revamped Strategic Plan for the next four years, which we are looking forward to sharing with you soon and which will continue to build on the work already done to provide relevant and accessible information and support for our regulated community.

Most recently, we have published detailed guidance around [cyber security](#), [data transfers](#) and [registration duties](#).

With limited resources, we want to deliver as much as we can on our outreach initiatives because there is so much potential to deliver real value : in schools, working with the third sector and

encouraging small and medium size businesses to engage with their statutory responsibilities.

We've seen how better engagement leads to better outcomes and our events aim to bridge the chasm between the complexities of the law and its simple, practical application in real life.

We want to help everybody to navigate the data world safely and positively. There are opportunities if we do that well, as much as there are dangers if we do not.

As a small regulator in a small jurisdiction we cannot change the world. But we can build a culture that thrives on protecting people through the protection of their data.

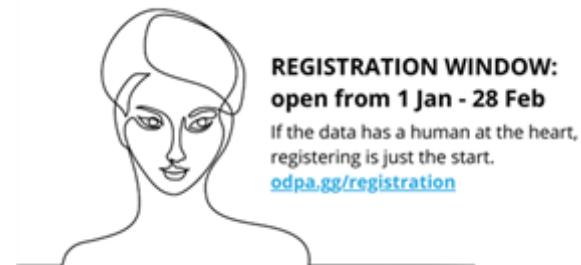
None of us can do everything but all of us can do something. If you need somewhere to start, take a look at our [Feel Good Guide](#) – now available in Portuguese.

Every step taken to connect with this issue makes a difference.

Emma Martins
Data Protection Commissioner

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

Thank you to local organisations who have already completed their renewal, and those who have registered for the first time. The registration period is open for another month – so there is plenty of time for local controllers and processors to renew or create a new registration. You can complete this process at any point whilst the registration window is open, please visit odpa.gg/registration for more information.



Authority seeks new Data Protection Commissioner in 2024



[We are hiring!](#)

The Bailiwick of Guernsey's Data Protection Authority has launched its search for a new Commissioner to take over from its current Commissioner, Emma Martins, whose agreed term finishes at the end of 2023. As the Data Protection Authority's Chairman Richard Thomas CBE said, "Everyone understands the importance of responsible use of personal information, but making it happen in practice requires skilful use of the available tools. Emma Martins will be a tough act to follow, but the right person will find this to be a very fulfilling leadership role."

Bijou Award celebrates ethical data use



[Bijou Award celebrates ethical data use:](#)

At the Islands Data Governance Forum (IDGF) Annual Awards on 26 January 2023, Emma Martins, our Commissioner, presented the 2023 Bijou Award to:

Matthew Parker, Chief Information Security Officer at Mourant and volunteer for the non-profit charitable trust, Safe and Secure Online For his many years of cyber security and data protection outreach work in schools (in his own time and at no cost to the schools), promoting online safety amid a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Joh Harvey, founder and owner of The Raw StoreFor having the courage to raise awareness about cyber security by sharing his personal story of being hacked to remove some of the stigma surrounding falling victim to cybercrime and help other small businesses protect themselves.

The IDGF also awarded Emma Martins a Lifetime Achievement Award.



News in brief:

It's been a busy start to 2023, with the [launch of our schools competition](#) for Year 7 children across the Bailiwick. Our commissioner Emma Martins has written two blogs, one on [human resources and human values](#) which was published in February's Business Brief, and one about [keeping children safe](#), published in the Guernsey Press to mark [Data Protection Day 2023](#). A new podcast: [children creating cultural change](#) featuring ODPa Outreach Officer Kirsty Bougourd looks at the importance of communicating effectively with children, so they can grow up enjoying the advantages of technology while hopefully being protected from potential harm. We've also published our latest [personal data breach statistics](#).

**Have your say in ODPa
Annual Survey**



[Annual Survey 2023](#)

If you have 30 seconds to spare, we'd love to hear your responses to the [4 key questions](#) in our Annual Survey. This year's survey closes on 28 February 2023.



[Beyond our shores](#) is a monthly round-up of recent [data-related developments](#) from around the world.

[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: A Bigger Prize: Why Competition Isn't Everything and How We Do Better - by Margaret Heffernan](#)

[Read our Commissioner's latest book review](#) and discover her recommended reads of 2022.

Please review what newsletters you want from us



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