

Latest updates from [The Office of the Data Protection Authority](#)

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*Excellence through ethics*

Thank you for subscribing to our monthly newsletter – in this issue:

- [Message from the Commissioner](#)
- [BLOG: Data protection and the foundations of democracy](#)
- [Breach statistics published](#)
- [International Women's Day 2022](#)
- [Tell us how you feel: Annual Survey](#) \*closes today\*
- [Free support and advice, and public engagement](#)
- Suggested reading: [Technology is not neutral – a short guide to technology ethics](#) by Stephanie Hare

## Message from the Commissioner

Welcome to newsletter #35



Against the backdrop of war and human suffering on such an enormous scale, it is difficult to put our minds to the daily, often mundane, tasks we are faced with. It also feels inappropriate to talk of the overwhelming sense of tragedy and helplessness that so many of us have been feeling in the face of the reality for so many millions who have lost everything.

I write this from a position of extraordinary privilege, and I am acutely aware of that. I am privileged to live in a safe and free jurisdiction. I am also privileged to work in a field which has such a connection to those freedoms. My position gives me a voice and I have always tried to use it to advance discussions around data and its protection.

With this in mind, this month's newsletter features my latest blog which sets out to offer a little of the rationale and context for the data protection legal framework. The rationale for any piece of legislation, especially if it has been around for a while (as data protection has) can often get lost in discussions. Of course the detail is important and the regulated community need to translate the principles into actions which can sometimes be challenging and time consuming. But the rationale and the context of the law are fundamental because without that, I believe that we will never truly commit ourselves to the administrative and compliance requirements. What seems mundane can take on a whole new meaning when we understand what is at stake.

If you want to take part in our [annual survey](#) where we are hoping to find out more about how our community views the legislation (and this office) which in turn will feed into future guidance and support initiatives, please do so before it closes today.

We also have some lovely content that we published for [International Women's Day](#), and finally our usual resources area for people to find out more about their rights and responsibilities including an update on breach statistics and learnings.

If there has ever been a time for us to pause and reflect on the reasons for the rights, freedoms and protections we have, and our good fortune in having them, it is now.

- Emma Martins

Data Protection Commissioner

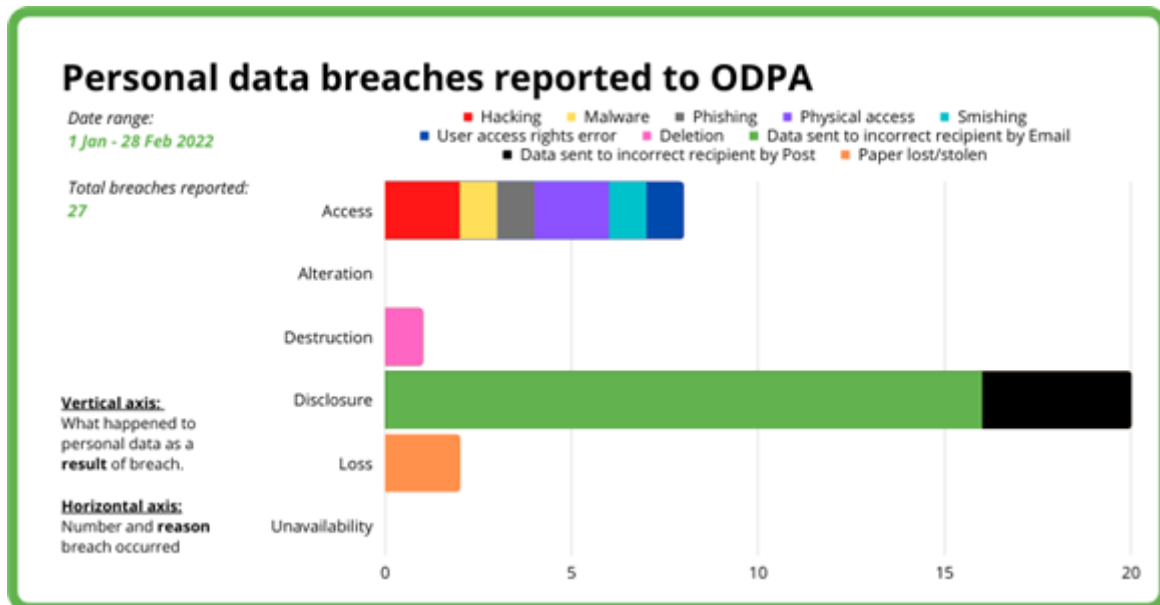
### [BLOG: Data protection and the foundations of democracy](#)

Profoundly moved by events unfolding in Ukraine, the Bailiwick's Data Protection Commissioner Emma Martins [explains in this blog](#) how data protection legislation not only protects people, it is one of the foundations our democracy and society is built on.

### [Breach statistics published](#)

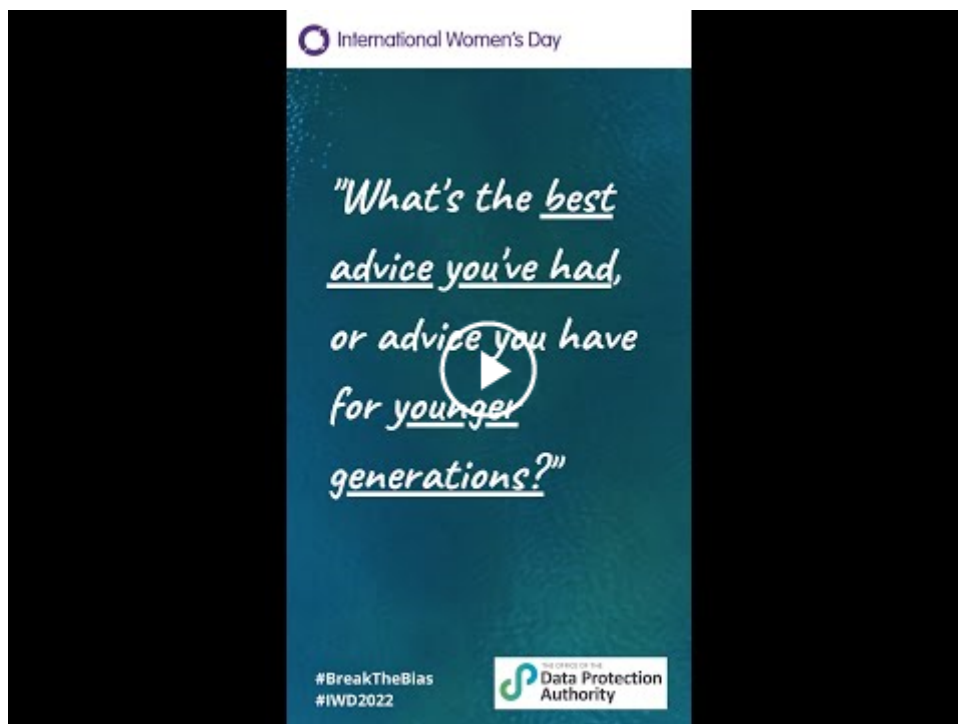
We've published the latest breach statistics with twenty-seven personal data breaches reported during January and February 2022.

READ: [Complexity of personal data breaches revealed](#)



### [International Women's Day 2022](#)

To mark International Women's Day, we asked some inspiring women to share the best advice they've received, and what advice they would offer to younger generations.



### [Tell us how you feel: Annual Survey](#)

Got 30 seconds? We'd love to hear your (anonymous) responses to [these 4 key questions](#).

(note: the survey closes today)

### [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:**

- [Schools programme](#)
- [Project Bijou](#)

#### **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: *Technology is not neutral – a short guide to technology ethics* by Stephanie Hare.



Stephanie Hare is a researcher, broadcaster and author. She is well known in the data/technology community but manages to bring the complex issues around ethics and technology to life in a way that speaks to those in, and beyond, that community. And this is exactly the point. The issues raised in this timely book are not for certain professions or sectors, they are for all of us. Too often discussions exclude (intentionally and unintentionally) significant parts of our communities. Hare has a gift for making language accessible and ethical issues understandable whilst steering clear of being either patronising or overly technical. In this book, Hare explores what technology ethics is, how it can be applied and what outcomes we should expect and demand.

We hear much talk (and indeed engage in a great deal of it ourselves at the ODPA) about a culture shift; a need to 'mainstream' conversations, awareness and engagement about data, technology, the impact on human beings and the role we need to play. This book seems to be a perfect example of that culture shift in action. I have heard it described as a 'beach read' because of its engaging and honest style but there is a serious point to be made – that if we are impacted, we need to have a voice. We can only have a voice if we understand and are part of the conversation. As Hare highlights: "To claim our power requires a mental shift". Certainly, that mental shift needs to come from those who already have power, but – critically - it must also come from further afield – from each and every one of us.

Technology is now ubiquitous - whether we like it or not, whether we understand it or not, whether we know about it or not. Discussions around its use, especially in the context of ethical frameworks, should not therefore be the exclusive domain of a small number of people. Hare highlights the enormous potential humankind has to use technology in a responsible and ethical way. She also reminds us that it will only happen if we make it so. None of us should be excluded because we are not lawyers or technologists. All of us should be included because we are all human beings.

"The good news is that we do not need to be scientists, social scientists or technologists to do this. We all have a part to play in shaping values and culture. While the challenges, risks and threats that face us are many and often daunting we are not powerless against them."

Please review what newsletters you want from us



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