

Data Protection Act 2018

[Return to Glossary](#)

Data Protection Act 2018 controls how your personal information is used by organisations, businesses or the government. It is the United Kingdom's implementation of the General [Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#).

Under the Data Protection Act 2018, you have the right to find out what information the government and other organisations store about you. These include the right to:

Everyone responsible for using personal data has to follow strict rules called 'data protection principles'. They must make sure the information is:

- used fairly, lawfully and transparently
- used for specified, explicit purposes
- used in a way that is adequate, relevant and limited to only what is necessary
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept for no longer than is necessary
- handled in a way that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unlawful or unauthorised processing, access, loss, destruction or damage

There is stronger legal protection for more sensitive information, such as:

- race
- ethnic background
- political opinions
- religious beliefs
- trade union membership
- genetics
- biometrics (where used for identification)
- health
- sex life or orientation

There are separate safeguards for personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences.

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