



Data Protection Policy- personal information, its processing and privacy

Purpose and scope

1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with **data protection law** in the UK. Data protection law applies to the **processing** (collection, storage, use and transfer) of **personal information** (data and other personal identifiers) about **data subjects** (living identifiable individuals).
2. Under data protection law, the College is identified as a **data controller** and as such is subject to a range of legal obligations. For clarity, the University of Cambridge and the other Colleges in Cambridge are separate data controllers, with their own policies and procedures. Sharing of personal information between the University and the Colleges is covered by a formal data sharing protocol.
3. This policy applies to all **staff** and **members** of the College, except when they are acting in a private or external capacity. For clarity, the term **staff** means anyone working in any context for the College at any level or grade (whether permanent, fixed term or temporary) and including employees, retired but active members and staff, visiting Fellows, workers, trainees, interns, seconded staff, agency staff, agents, consultants, volunteers, and external members of College committees. Equally, the term **member** includes senior members (Fellows) and junior members (students and alumnae) of the College when they are handling or processing personal information on behalf of the College, except when they are acting in a private or external capacity.
4. This policy should be read in conjunction with:
 - College Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations;
 - staff employment contracts and comparable documents (which outline confidentiality obligations when processing information of the College);
 - policies, procedures and terms of conditions of the College and, where relevant, similar documents of the University of Cambridge with regard to:
 - information security;
 - acceptable use of IT facilities (including use of personal devices);
 - records management and retention;
 - any other contractual obligations on the College or the individual which impose confidentiality or information management obligations (which may at times exceed those of College policies with respect to storage or security requirements – e.g. for funded research).
5. This policy is reviewed by College Council at least once every two years. The College Council is responsible for ensuring appropriate resources are in place to achieve compliance with data protection law in line with an appropriate overall risk profile.



Obligations of the College

6. The College upholds data protection law as part of everyday working practices, through:
 - a) ensuring all **personal information** (see Annex) is managed appropriately through this policy;
 - b) understanding, and applying as necessary, the **data protection principles** (see Annex) when processing personal information;
 - c) understanding, and fulfilling as necessary, the **rights given to data subjects** (see Annex) under data protection law;
 - d) understanding, and implementing as necessary, the College's **accountability obligations** (see Annex) under data protection law; and
 - e) the publication of **data protection statements** outlining the details of its personal data processing in a clear and transparent manner (see College website).
7. The College shall appoint a statutory data protection officer, who will be responsible for:
 - a) monitoring and auditing the College's compliance with its obligations data protection law, especially its overall risk profile, and reporting on such annually to the College;
 - b) advising the College on all aspects of its compliance with data protection law;
 - c) acting as the College's standard point of contact with the Information Commissioner's Office with regard to data protection law, including in the case of personal data breaches; and
 - d) acting as an available point of contact for complaints from data subjects.
8. The College shall otherwise ensure all members and staff are aware of this policy and any associated procedures and notes of guidance relating to data protection compliance, provide training as appropriate, and review regularly its procedures and processes to ensure they are fit for purpose. It shall also maintain records of its information assets.
9. Individual members and staff are responsible for:
 - a) completing relevant data protection training, as advised by the College;
 - b) following relevant College policies, procedures and notes of guidance;
 - c) only accessing and using personal information as necessary for their contractual duties and/or other College roles;
 - d) ensuring personal information they have access to is not disclosed unnecessarily or inappropriately;
 - e) where identified, reporting personal data breaches, and co-operating with College authorities to address them; and
 - f) only deleting, copying or removing personal information when leaving the College as agreed with the College and as appropriate.

Non-observance of the responsibilities in paragraph 9 may result in disciplinary action against individual members or staff.

10. The obligations outlined above do not waive any personal liability for individual criminal offences for the wilful misuse of personal data under data protection legislation.

Last updated: April 2023, Elizabeth Ennion-Smith, Newnham College



Annex

Legal Definition of personal information

UK GDPR defines **personal data** as any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An **identifiable living individual** means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to

- a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or
- b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.

Special category data (formerly sensitive personal data) are defined as information revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership; genetic data; biometric data (where used for identification purposes); data concerning health, a person's sex life, and a person's sexual orientation.

Data Protection Principles

The data protection principles state that personal data shall be:

- processed (i.e. collected, handled, stored, disclosed and destroyed) fairly, lawfully and transparently. As part of this, the College must have a 'legal basis' for processing an individual's personal data (most commonly, the processing is necessary for the College to operate a contract with them, the processing is necessary to fulfil a legal obligation, the processing is in the legitimate interests of the College and does not override their privacy considerations, or they have consented to the processing);
- processed only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes;
- adequate, relevant and not excessive;
- accurate and kept up to date (and rectified if inaccurate);
- kept for no longer than necessary;
- processed securely.

With an additional requirement for the College to be able to demonstrate its compliance with these principles.¹

Data Subject Rights

An individual's rights (all of which are qualified in different ways) are as follows:

- the right to be informed about the collection and use of their personal. This right is usually fulfilled by the provision of 'privacy notices' (also known as 'data protection statements' or, especially in the context of websites, 'privacy policies') which set out how an organisation plans to use an individual's personal data, who it will be shared with, ways to complain, and so on;
- the right to access their personal data and supplementary information;
- the right to have their inaccurate personal data rectified or completed if it is incomplete;

¹ UK Data Protection Act 2018, Chapter 2, sections 35-42.



- the right to have their personal data erased (right to be forgotten) in certain circumstances;
- the right to restrict the processing of their personal data in certain circumstances;
- the right to data portability, which allows the data subject to obtain and reuse their personal data for their own purposes across different services;
- the right to object to processing (including profiling) of their personal data that proceeds under particular legal bases; with an absolute right to object to processing of their personal data if it is for direct marketing purposes to direct marketing;
- the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated decision-making, including profiling using their personal data and which produces legal effects concerning them or similarly significantly affects them.

Accountability

The College is required under law to:

- comply with data protection law and hold records demonstrating this;
- implement policies, procedures, processes and training to promote “data protection by design and by default”;
- have appropriate contracts in place when outsourcing functions that involve the processing of personal data;
- maintain records of the data processing that is carried out across the College;
- record and report personal data breaches;
- carry out, where relevant, data protection impact assessments on high risk processing activities;
- cooperate with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) as the UK regulator of data protection law;
- respond to regulatory/court action and pay administrative levies and fines issued by the ICO.