



**Doncaster  
Council**

# Data Protection Policy

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## **1. Summary**

This policy sets out how the council will comply with data protection legislation and protect the personal information of everyone who receives services from, or provides services to, the council. It informs customers of their rights, and suppliers of their responsibilities. It shows how we comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018, other regulations and good practice standards.

## **2. Scope**

This policy applies to employees, contractors, agency staff and councillors. It covers personal data we collect and use on paper and electronically. It covers our corporate databases, computer network and archive of paper records. It covers video and photographs, voice recordings, CCTV and mobile devices such as laptops, mobile phones, memory sticks and pendant alarms.

## **3. Accountability**

The *Council* is a data controller which means that it decides why and how personal data is processed. It is accountable for its handling of personal information.

Our *Chief Executive* is the person accountable for providing the policies for employees to follow under the law, so that we can carry out decisions of the Mayor and council in response to our statutory functions. The Data Protection Policy is part of our corporate governance framework, which contains important policies and procedures maintained and published by the council, that are key to good governance and effective decision making.

The *Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO)* is the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services who is accountable for protecting the council's information assets.

The *Caldicott Guardian* is the Assistant Director Adult Care . The Caldicott Guardian is responsible for protecting the confidentiality of people's health and social care information and making sure it is used properly.

The *SIRO Board* is made up of assistant directors and gives strategic guidance to the SIRO and Caldicott Guardian for the management of the council's information assets. The SIRO Board gives direction to Information Asset Owners who are Heads of Service.

The *Technology Governance Board* is made up of assistant directors and senior managers and has a remit for governance in the development of computer systems.

The *Data Protection Officer* is a position required in law to ensure the council complies with data protection legislation and acts as a single point of contact for individuals who want to find out about their data. (See also section 23)

Each *employee and supplier* is bound by a contractual duty of confidentiality.

The council is registered with the *Information Commissioner*, who is the independent regulator appointed by parliament to check compliance with data protection law.

The council maintains a *register of processing activities* of the personal information we are responsible for to ensure it is used according to the data protection principles.

#### **4. Data protection is a fundamental right**

The protection of a person's data is a fundamental right. Under the Human Rights Act 1998, everyone has the right to respect for their private and family life, their home and their correspondence. This includes respect for your private and confidential information, particularly when storing and sharing data.

This right can be limited in certain circumstances but any limitation must balance the competing interests of an individual and of the community as a whole.

In particular any limitation must be covered by law and be necessary and proportionate for one or more of the following aims:

- public safety or the country's economic wellbeing
- prevention of disorder or crime
- protecting health or morals
- protecting other people's rights and freedoms
- national security.

The right to privacy must often be balanced against the right to free expression. Public figures don't necessarily enjoy the same privacy as others. For example, sometimes the public interest might justify publishing information about senior officers or councillors that would otherwise interfere with their right to privacy.

#### **5. Personal data**

In this policy we use the terms "personal data" and "special categories of personal data" which are used in data protection legislation.

In this policy personal data means any information relating to an identifiable living person. This means they can be identified from information such as a name, an address, an identification number (e.g. your National Insurance number, NHS number or case reference number), location data, etc.

"Special categories of personal data" is personal sensitive data. This is data regarding an individual's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data and biometric data (fingerprints, eye scans etc.) for the purpose of uniquely identifying a person, data concerning health or data concerning a person's sex life or sexual orientation.

There are extra safeguards for special categories of personal data to ensure no one is discriminated against when it comes to receiving a service.

We generally refer to a person or individual in this policy, although the term in law is “data subject”.

The frequent reference in this policy to “processing” data means any operation performed on personal data, whether using a computer or manual filing systems. It includes collection, use, and recording, storing, sending and deleting personal data.

## **6. Data protection principles**

The council applies data protection principles in its processing of personal data. These principles are set out in the UK GDPR and have been incorporated into the Data Protection Act 2018. The six principles are that personal data should be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent way
- Collected for a specific purpose
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what’s necessary
- Kept up to date
- Kept for only as long as necessary
- Protected with appropriate security.

## **7. Lawful basis of processing personal data**

There are different lawful reasons for processing personal data and special categories of personal data. The council always uses at least one lawful basis for processing personal information and at least one lawful basis for processing special categories of personal data.

The six lawful reasons for processing personal data are:

- a) An individual has given consent for the processing of his or her personal data, and it is freely given, specific, informed, and there must be an indication signifying agreement;
- b) the council has a contract with a person and need to process their personal data to comply with our obligations under the contract; or we haven’t yet got a contract with the person, but they have asked us to do something as a first step (e.g. provide a quote) and we need to process their personal data to do what they ask;
- c) The council is obliged to process personal data to comply with the law. We will always refer to the specific legal provision or source of advice that explains generally applicable legal obligations;
- d) The processing of personal data is necessary to protect someone’s life (“vital interests”);

e) The processing of personal data is necessary under public functions and powers set out in law; or the council needs to perform a specific task in the public interest that is set out in law;

f) The processing of personal data is in the legitimate interests of the council, where we use your data in ways that people would reasonably expect and that have a minimal privacy impact. However, public authorities are more limited than private organisations in their ability to rely on this basis for processing personal data;

The lawful bases for processing special categories of data are:

(a) an individual has given explicit consent to the processing of personal data for one or more specified purposes, except where limited by law;

(b) processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the council or a person under employment, social security and social protection law or a collective agreement under law;

(c) processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of a person or where the person is physically or legally incapable of giving consent;

(d) processing by non-for-profit bodies for legitimate activities with appropriate safeguards;

(e) processing relates to personal data which have been made public by a person;

(f) processing is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims or whenever courts are acting in their judicial capacity;

(g) processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest under law;

(h) processing is necessary for the purposes of preventive or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services on the basis of law or pursuant to contract with a health professional and subject to the duty of confidentiality;

(i) processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of health care and of medicinal products or medical devices, subject to the duty of confidentiality;

(j) processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes;

The council must always demonstrate it processes information with safeguards in place to protect the fundamental rights and interests of the individual.

## **8. Consent**

Where the council relies on consent or explicit consent as the lawful basis for processing, we will do this to by offering individuals real choice and control.

We will avoid making consent to processing a precondition of a service.

We will be clear and concise.

We keep our requests for consent separate from other terms and conditions.

We will be specific and 'granular' so that we get separate consent for separate things.

We will name any third parties (i.e. other groups or organisations) who will rely on the consent.

We will make it easy for people to withdraw consent and tell them how.

We will keep evidence of consent (who, when, how, and what we told people).

We will keep consent under review, and update it if anything changes.

For explicit consent we will ensure the individual provides a very clear and specific statement of consent.

## **9. Duty of confidentiality**

Our staff and councillors abide by a common law duty of confidentiality. This means that personal information that has been given to a member of staff or a councillor by an individual should not be used or disclosed further, except as originally understood by that individual, or with their permission.

Our staff and councillors are subject to a Code a Conduct relating to confidentiality. Staff have a confidentiality clause in their contracts.

Our caring professions are further subject to the professional codes of conduct of their professions relating to the confidentiality of their relationship with service users and clients.

## **10. Information about criminal offences**

The processing of information about criminal allegations, convictions or offences by the council is in accordance with our legal obligations and because we have legal authority in certain areas, such as the enforcement of parking rules, preventing fly-tipping, upholding food hygiene and licensing of pubs and clubs.

We have a separate policy for the processing of this data.

## **11. Surveillance**

The council operates CCTV for traffic management and public safety. We operate under a Code of Practice prescribed by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The council uses the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) to conduct covert surveillance involving directed surveillance or the use of a covert human intelligence source (CHIS). The council complies with the Codes of Practice that are overseen by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office. This is only for matters that the council has responsibility for, and for directed surveillance must either involve a criminal offence which we are trying to prevent or detect, which is punishable by a maximum of at least 6 months imprisonment, or would constitute an offence involving sale of tobacco and alcohol to underage children.

The surveillance has to be authorised by a magistrate. The council's Audit Committee receives a six monthly report and monitors the use of such powers.

## **12. Children**

The council pays particular protection to the collecting and processing of children's personal data because they may be less aware of the risks involved.

Where we offer an online service, which is not a preventive or counselling service, directly to a child, only children aged 13 or over are able provide their own consent. For children under this age we obtain consent from whoever holds parental responsibility for the child.

## **13. Automated processing**

Where the council relies on automated decision-making (making a decision solely by automated means without any human involvement) which affects an individual, we inform the individual; introduce simple ways for them to request human intervention or challenge a decision; and carry out regular checks to make sure that our systems are working as intended.

## **14. How we handle personal information - Privacy notices**

The council provides privacy notices, which are statements to individuals about the collection and use of their personal data. The information includes our purposes for processing their personal data, retention periods for that personal data, and who it will be shared with.

This information is on the council's website, and individuals are referred to it at the time we collect their personal data from them.

Where we obtain personal data from other sources, we provide individuals with privacy information within a reasonable period of obtaining the data and no later than one month.

## **15. Individual Rights**

Individuals whose data is processed by the council have a number of rights in law.

(a) The council will respond to a request by an individual for access to the information we hold about them. We will respond within one month. We may take longer than one month and up to three months if the request is complicated, and we will inform you of this. There is no charge for this service. We will provide the information in secure electronic format unless you prefer otherwise. (b) The council will respond within one month to a request from an individual to have inaccurate personal data rectified (corrected), or completed if it is incomplete. Where the council can lawfully refuse to rectify the data, we will explain why.

(c) The council will respond within one month to a request from an individual to have personal data erased. Where the council can lawfully refuse to erase the data, we will explain why.

(d) The council will respond within one month to a request from an individual to move, copy or transfer personal data easily from the council's computer network to another in a safe and secure way. We will do this in a structured, commonly used and machine readable form and free of charge.

(e) The council will consider a request from an individual objecting to the processing of their personal data in relation to:

- processing based on legitimate interests or the performance of a task in the public interest/exercise of official authority (including profiling);
- direct marketing (including profiling); and
- processing for purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics.

We shall ensure that individuals know about their right to object when we first tell them about the processing and in our privacy notice.

## **16. Information sharing**

The council believes that the duty to share information can be as important as the duty to protect information. This is the eighth Caldicott Principle, which applies to the handling of personal confidential information. Its purpose is to ensure that the direct care of people should not be impeded where professionals from different organisations such as social workers, nurses and community mental health workers need to support an individual.

We have signed Information Sharing Protocols setting out the principles of information sharing with partners, such as the police, probation, prisons, Department of Work and Pensions, and the Department of Communities and Local Government.

These protocols are supplemented by Information Sharing Agreements at the point at which data is shared. These set out what data is being shared, how it is transferred and the retention period.

We also share information for non-direct care but that is pseudonymised data. That means there is a unique number which allows us to know who the person is, but not the partner with whom we are sharing. Typically, this happens with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group in Doncaster, which analyse the type of care we provide to support commissioning of services and financial management.

### **17. Transfers to other countries**

Most of our processing occurs in the UK or European Economic Area. This means that there are common standards for the processing of personal data. However, when personal data is transferred to third countries, the council assures itself that the transfer of personal data is covered by an adequacy decision in the data protection arrangements of that country, an appropriate safeguard or an exception.

### **18. Privacy by design**

The council is committed to a privacy by design or privacy by default approach to building new systems and updating procedures for processing personal data. We use the best technology and human processes we can in order to limit the risks to privacy.

### **19. Data Protection Impact Assessments**

The council requires all its services to carry out Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) when they introduce new technology or changes to the processing of personal data. The assessment identifies the risk to privacy from the customer's perspective and what steps can be taken to reduce this wherever possible whilst providing a service to the customer.

### **20. Contractors**

Where the council has a contractual relationship with another organisation or individual, we will ensure we are clear about the contractor's role, responsibilities and accountability in relation to personal information.

### **21. Information Security**

The Council has an Information Security policy. The purpose of this policy is to take appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect personal data.

The council obtains independent assurance of its information security and complies with the information security standards of the Public Service Network.

The council meets the standards of PCI-DSS, which is the standard for protecting credit and debit card payments.

The council complies with the Data Security and Protection Toolkit of the Department of Health/NHS for handling personal confidential data.

## **22. Breaches**

The council tries hard to prevent information breaches, but when these occur, there is an incident reporting and investigation procedure. Where a breach is a serious risk to the rights and freedoms of anyone, it will be reported to the Information Commissioner within 72 hours.

## **23. Data Protection Officer**

The council has appointed a Data Protection Officer as required by law. Their role will be to ensure the compliance of the council with data protection law.

Both the Data Protection Officer and the Information Governance Team can be contacted at: [information.governance@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:information.governance@doncaster.gov.uk) Tel 01302 736000.

## **24. How to complain**

If you think we have breached data protection, you can complain and we will respond within one month.

If you are still unhappy, the Data Protection Officer will consider your appeal. Their response will take up to one month.

Finally, individuals can take their complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision.

## **25. Service and benefit**

Data protection is a big challenge when digital technology can collect and transmit huge volumes of personal data. For our staff, managers, senior officers and councillors we are positive about the benefits, and serious about our responsibilities. We are transparent and accountable, and we believe that we can both serve, and protect, the information of our citizens and service users.

## **26. References**

UK GDPR is the retained EU law version of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679

Data Protection Act 2018

Directive (EU) 2016/680 Law Enforcement Directive

The Caldicott Principles [www.ukgc.uk](http://www.ukgc.uk)

Information Commissioner's Office: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

## **27. List of related policies and procedures**

The Data Protection Policy should be read with our:

Safeguarding Special Category Data Policy

Law Enforcement (Data Protection) Policy

Information Security Policy

Rights of Individuals Policy

Data Protection Impact Assessment Procedure

Tier One Information Sharing Protocol

Tier Two Information Sharing Agreement