

Data Protection Policy

Contents

1. Purpose and scope.
2. Background.
3. Principles.
4. Aims and commitments.
5. Roles and responsibilities.
6. Breaches of data privacy legislation.
7. Compliance.
8. Further information.
9. Review and development
10. Related policies.

1. Purpose and scope

This policy provides a framework for ensuring that the College meets its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and associated legislation, which includes all legislation enacted in the UK in respect of the protection of personal data as well as the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 ('data privacy legislation').

It applies to all processing of personal data carried out for a College purpose, irrespective of whether the data is processed on non-College equipment or by third parties.

'*Personal data*' means any information relating to an identifiable living individual who can be identified from that data or from that data and other data. '*Processing*' means anything that is done with personal data, including collection, storage, use, disclosure and deletion.

More stringent conditions apply to the processing of special category personal data.

'*Special category*' means personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying an individual, data concerning health or data concerning an individual's sex life or sexual orientation.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the accompanying guidance, which provides further detail and advice on practical application, as well as any other documents that impose confidentiality or data management obligations in respect of information held by the College.

This policy does not cover the use of personal data by members of the College when acting in a private or non-College capacity.

2. Background

The processing of personal data underpins almost everything the College does. Without it, students cannot be admitted and supported; staff cannot be recruited; living individuals cannot be researched; and events cannot be organised for academic colleagues, students, visitors or alumni.

We are responsible for handling people's most personal information. By not handling personal data properly, we could put individuals at risk.

There are also legal, financial and reputational risks for the College. For example:

- Reputational damage from a breach may affect public confidence in our ability to handle personal information.
- The Information Commissioners Office (ICO), which enforces data privacy legislation, has the power to fine organisations up to 4% of annual turnover for serious breaches.
- If we are not able to demonstrate that we have robust systems and processes in place to ensure we use personal data properly we might lose our ability to carry out research projects requiring access to personal data.

3. Principles

The processing of personal data must comply with data privacy legislation and, in particular, the six data privacy principles.

In summary, they require that personal data is:

- processed fairly, lawfully and in a transparent manner;
- used only for limited, specified stated purposes and not used or disclosed in any way incompatible with those purposes;
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary;
- accurate and, where necessary, up-to-date;
- not kept for longer than necessary; and
- kept safe and secure.

In addition, a new accountability principle requires us to be able to evidence compliance with these principles.

The University has prepared guidance to explain these principles in more detail and they can be found [here](#)

4. Aims and commitments

The College handles a range of personal data and takes seriously its responsibilities under data privacy legislation. It recognises that the mishandling of an individual's personal data may cause them distress or put them at risk of identity fraud. As a result, it is committed to:

- complying fully with data privacy legislation;
- where practicable, adhering to good practice, as issued by the ICO or other appropriate bodies; and
- handling an individual's personal data in a careful and considerate manner that recognises the importance of such information to their privacy and welfare.

The College seeks to achieve these aims by:

- ensuring that staff, Fellows and other individuals who process data for College purposes are made aware of their individual responsibilities under data privacy legislation and how these

apply to their areas of work. For example, through line managers drawing the attention of their employees to data privacy legislation and the College's data protection policy;

- providing suitable training, guidance and advice. The University's online training course on data privacy and information security is available to all members of the College, and mandatory for staff processing personal data. The online course is supplemented by job-specific training, where appropriate, and access to talks and presentations at College staff meetings and University conferences.
- incorporating data privacy requirements into administrative procedures where these involve the processing of personal data, particularly in relation to information systems (the concept of 'privacy by design');
- operating a centrally coordinated procedure (in order to ensure consistency) for the processing of subject access and other rights based requests made by individuals; and
- investigating promptly any suspected breach of data privacy legislation; reporting it, where necessary, to the ICO; and seeking to learn any lessons from the incident in order to reduce the risk of reoccurrence.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Governing Body

Governing Body has responsibility for ensuring that the College complies with data privacy legislation.

It is supported by the *Management Executive Team*, which is responsible for keeping under review the College's policies and compliance with legislation and regulatory requirements.

Data Protection Officer (DPO)

The DPO is responsible for monitoring internal compliance, advising on the College's data protection obligations and acting as a point of contact for individuals and the ICO.

The DPO works with the College's IT team and SAOs to:

- establish and maintain policies and procedures to facilitate the College's compliance with data privacy legislation;
- establish and maintain guidance and training materials on data privacy legislation and specific compliance issues;
- support privacy by design and privacy impact assessments;
- respond to requests for advice from Centres and teams in the College;
- coordinate a College-wide register to capture the full range of processing that is carried out;
- comply with subject access and other rights based requests made by individuals for copies of their personal data;
- investigate and respond to complaints regarding data privacy (including requests to cease the processing of personal data); and
- keep records of personal data breaches, notifying the ICO of any significant breaches and responding to any requests that it may make for further information.

SAOs, Heads of department and Centre Directors

SAOs, Heads of Department and Centre Directors are responsible for ensuring that the processing of personal data in their department or Centre conforms to the requirements of data privacy legislation and this policy. In particular, they must ensure that:

- new and existing staff, visitors or third parties associated with the department, team or Centre who are likely to process personal data are aware of their responsibilities under data privacy legislation. This includes drawing the attention of staff to the requirements of this policy, ensuring that staff who have responsibility for handling personal data are provided with adequate training and, where appropriate, ensuring that job descriptions for members of staff or agreements with relevant third parties reference data privacy responsibilities.
- adequate records of processing activities are kept (for example, by undertaking register exercises);
- data protection requirements are embedded into systems and processes by adopting a 'privacy by design' approach and undertaking privacy impact assessments where appropriate;
- privacy notices are provided where data is collected directly from individuals or where data is used in non-standard ways;
- data sharing is conducted in accordance with College guidance;
- requests from the DPO for information are complied with promptly;
- data privacy risks are included in the team's risk management framework and considered by MET on a regular basis; and
- departmental and team policies and procedures are adopted where appropriate.

Others processing personal data for a College purpose eg. staff, students and volunteers

Anyone who processes personal data for a College purpose is individually responsible for complying with data privacy legislation, this policy and any other policy, guidance, procedures, and/or training introduced by the College to comply with data privacy legislation. For detailed guidance, they should refer to any relevant departmental policies and procedures. In summary, they must ensure that they:

- only use personal data in ways people would expect and for the purposes for which it was collected;
- use a minimum amount of personal data and only hold it for as long as is strictly necessary;
- keep personal data up-to-date;
- keep personal data secure, in accordance with the College's [Information Security Policy](#);
- do not disclose personal data to unauthorised persons, whether inside or outside the College;
- complete relevant training as required;
- report promptly any suspected breaches of data privacy legislation, in accordance with the procedure in section 6 below, and following any recommended next steps;
- seek advice from the DPO where they are unsure how to comply with data privacy legislation; and
- promptly respond to any requests from the DPO in connection with subject access and other rights based requests and complaints (and forward any such requests that are received directly to the DPO promptly).

6. Breaches of data privacy legislation

The College will investigate incidents involving a possible breach of data privacy legislation in order to ensure that, where necessary, appropriate action is taken to mitigate the consequences and prevent a repetition of similar incidents in future. Depending on the nature and severity of the incident, it may also be necessary to notify the individuals affected and/or the ICO. A breach will

occur where, for example, personal data is disclosed or made available to unauthorised persons or personal data is used in a way that the individual does not expect.

Incidents involving failures of IT systems or processes must be reported to the College's ICT Manager within 4 working hours of discovery. The ICT Manager will liaise with OxCert and the DPO, as appropriate.

All other incidents must be reported directly to the DPO at the earliest possible opportunity.

7. Compliance

The College regards any breach of data privacy legislation, this policy or any other policy and/or training introduced by the College from time to time to comply with data privacy legislation as a serious matter, which may result in disciplinary action. Depending on the nature of the breach, an individual may also find that they are personally liable (for example, it can be a criminal offence for a member of the College to disclose personal information unlawfully).

8. Further information

Questions about this policy and data privacy matters in general should be directed to the DPO at: dpo@sant.ox.ac.uk

Questions about information security should be directed to the ICT Manager at: it-manager@sant.ox.ac.uk

9. Review and development

This policy, and supporting guidance, will apply with effect from 25 May 2018. It will be reviewed during the 2018/19 academic year to take into account outstanding ICO guidance and the final form of national legislation underpinning the GDPR.

10. Related policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with related policies and regulations, including the:

- [Information Security Policy](#); and
- [IT Rules](#).