



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Minister of State for Digital
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000

www.gov.uk/dcms

TO2017/02986/DC
7 August 2017

Dear Stakeholder,

DATA PROTECTION BILL

Today we have published a statement of intent to set out further details of the forthcoming Data Protection Bill. I am very grateful to the many people who have contributed to our policy development process by responding to our “call for views” in April and I hope that you will be reassured to read more detail on what shape the future data protection legislation will take.

The Data Protection Bill will bring our data protection laws up to date. It will both support innovation, and ensure that we can remain assured that our data is safe as we move into a future digital world. In bringing these reforms, many of you have sought reassurance that you will still be able to achieve the business outcomes you achieve from existing data processing. I am determined to ensure that the Bill supports innovation and although in some cases there will need to be changes to business processes, data will still be used as productively for all current uses ranging from marketing to research. There is no conflict in both enhancing citizen protections and supporting UK economic activity. It’s all about using data wisely.

We have received many submissions seeking to safeguard existing data processing. These cover all sectors but include such matters as calculating risk and fraud detection, developing membership and alumni data, and enforcing rules, both contractual and legal. We will be doing three things to address these concerns. Firstly, we will exercise the available derogations through the Data Protection Bill. Secondly, we will where possible reproduce the exemptions and safeguards currently in the Data Protection Act. Thirdly, we will work closely with the Information Commissioner to ensure that her guidance helps signpost the way through the transition to the new law.

We have also heard the concerns about managing subject access requests, primarily from those involved in research and those who hold large archives. It is of course essential that we fully support you to ensure that these valuable activities can continue with minimal disruption. We will be exercising all of the available derogations to ensure that research organisations and archiving services do not have to respond to subject access requests when this would seriously impair or prevent them from fulfilling their



purposes, and providing that appropriate organisational safeguards are in place to keep the data secure. In effect, these derogations will maintain the system we have today, on which many of you have commented works so well.

I hope you agree that the statement of intent contains helpful information and context for our legislative plans. I am also very much aware that all stakeholders have very specific concerns and you will want more detail. The Bill team will be happy to talk you through the detail and if there are any outstanding concerns we will go to every effort to resolve them. They can be contacted at dataprotectionbill@culture.gov.uk. I look forward to continuing the positive discussions over the summer.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Hancock', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

THE RT HON MATT HANCOCK MP