



Department  
for Education

Department for Education  
2 St Pauls Place  
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Date: 22 March 2018

Dear Supplier,

As you know, at the last couple of Core Management Information System Supplier Meetings, we have had discussions around GDPR readiness and how we can all work to ensure schools efficiently deal with their own GDPR compliance. Those conversations have proved useful, in particular, in framing the six key themes that we encouraged schools to focus on in clarifications with their suppliers.

I have received several bits of feedback from schools that suggests suppliers are increasingly engaging and providing information, for which I am grateful. Feedback also suggests, however, that responses are patchy. I am very aware that in giving that feedback, schools are talking about suppliers in a very broad sense, not just the Core MIS Supplier Group.

As schools increasingly focus on their own GDPR preparation, it is vital that those who process their data can provide the right reassurances that as a supplier they are well on the way to GDPR compliance. As suppliers are preparing for GDPR coming into effect in May, they may not yet wish to provide a *'we are fully ready'* response, particularly as legislation is not passing through the parliamentary process. I do strongly encourage some communications with schools to provide accurate updates on your own preparations. You should be clear how you will work with the school to ensure contracts and data sharing agreements are compliant, and ensure that privacy notices are visible to data subjects at the relevant places.

As May approaches, schools will increasingly be wondering *'what do I do if a supplier isn't giving me any information or confidence that they are GDPR compliant?'* This puts schools in a difficult position. I would be extremely grateful for any effort that helps schools by providing timely and plain English updates on a supplier's GDPR readiness and compliance, to ensure we limit the 'chasing' that individual schools will otherwise be doing. That will help schools efficiently tackle their own GDPR compliance, which is ultimately in the interests of everyone.

As I say, this applies to all system suppliers, not just core MIS, and I would be grateful if you could treat this request for a push on communications to schools as an open letter to the broader supplier community, and circulate through any networks you see fit.

Yours Sincerely,

Iain Bradley

Deputy Director, Data Modernisation Division.