

Appropriate policy document for processing special category data

This is the “appropriate policy document” for the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) that sets out how we will protect special category personal data.

It meets the requirement at paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 2018 that an appropriate policy document be in place where the processing of special category personal data is necessary for the purposes of performing or exercising obligations or rights which are imposed or conferred by law on the controller or the data subject in connection with employment, social security or social protection.

It also meets the requirement at paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 2018 that an appropriate policy document be in place where the processing of special category personal data is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest. The specific conditions under which data may be processed for reasons of substantial public interest are set out at paragraphs 6 to 28 of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 2018.

Procedures for securing compliance

Principle 1

Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

CSPL will:

- ensure that personal data is only processed where a lawful basis applies, and where processing is otherwise lawful
- only process personal data fairly, and will ensure that data subjects are not misled about the purposes of any processing
- ensure that data subjects receive full privacy information so that any processing of personal data is transparent

Principle 2

Personal data shall be collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.

CSPL will:

- only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, and we will inform data subjects what those purposes are in a privacy notice

- not use personal data for purposes that are incompatible with the purposes for which it was collected. If we do use personal data for a new purpose that is compatible, we will inform the data subject first

Principle 3

Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.

CSPL will only collect the minimum personal data that we need for the purpose for which it is collected. We will ensure that the data we collect is adequate and relevant.

Principle 4

Personal data shall be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.

CSPL will ensure that personal data is accurate, and kept up to date where necessary. We will take particular care to do this where our use of the personal data has a significant impact on individuals.

Principle 5

Personal data shall be kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.

CSPL will only keep personal data in identifiable form as long as is necessary for the purposes for which it is collected, or where we have a legal obligation to do so. Once we no longer need personal data it shall be deleted or rendered permanently anonymous.

Principle 6

Personal data shall be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

CSPL will ensure that there are appropriate organisational and technical measures in place to protect personal data.

Accountability principle

The controller shall be responsible for, and be able to demonstrate compliance with these principles.

CSPL will:

- ensure that records are kept of all personal data processing activities, and that these are provided to the Information Commissioner on request
- carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment for any high risk personal data processing, and consult the Information Commissioner if appropriate
- ensure that frequent correspondence with the Cabinet Office's Data Protection Officer is maintained to provide independent advice and monitoring of the Committee's personal data handling where necessary
- have in place internal processes to ensure that personal data is only collected, used or handled in a way that is compliant with data protection law

Data controller's policies as regards retention and erasure of personal data

We will ensure, where special category personal data is processed, that:

- there is a record of that processing, and that record will set out, where possible, the envisaged time limits for erasure of the different categories of data
- where we no longer require special category personal data for the purpose for which it was collected, we will delete it or render it permanently anonymous
- data subjects receive full privacy information about how their data will be handled, and that this will include the period for which the personal data will be stored, or if that is not possible, the criteria used to determine that period

Further information

For further information about CSPL's compliance with data protection law, please contact the head of the Secretariat: lesley.bainsfair@public-standards.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you wish to contact the Cabinet Office's Data Protection Officer, you may do so: dpo@cabinetoffice.gov.uk