



Department of Health

Privacy Statement

The Department of Health

The Department's role is to serve the public and support the Minister for Health, Ministers of State and the Government. The Department's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Ireland by:

- Keeping people healthy;
- Providing the healthcare people need;
- Delivering high quality services;
- Getting best value from health system resources.

Relevant Data Protection Legislation

The General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679) (GDPR) comes into effect on 25 May 2018. As a Regulation the GDPR will apply directly to Ireland. However the Data Protection Act 2018 will give further effect to the GDPR in a number of areas where Member State flexibility is permitted and will provide for the establishment of the Data Protection Commission as the State's data protection authority.

GDPR imposes a number of new obligations on organisations with an increased emphasis on transparency, security and accountability, subjects' rights to access their information and greater privacy. GDPR also provides for new enforcement rules and penalties.

To support compliance with GDPR the Department of Health has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO). The DPO's role will be to improve accountability, monitor compliance and raise awareness within the Department. The DPO will also be the point of contact with individuals seeking access to personal data and with the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC).

How do I contact the Data Protection Officer?

The Data Protection Officer can be contacted as follows:

Data Protection Officer
Data Protection Unit
Department of Health
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2

D02 VW90

Email DPO@health.gov.ie

Phone No: 01 6354114

Who is the Data Controller?

The Data Controller for the collection and processing of all personal data is the Department of Health.

What is Personal Data?

Personal Data means any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified, in particular by reference to an identifier.

Under this definition a wide range of personal identifiers including name, identification number or online identifier is personal data. The definition applies to personal data held electronically and manually in filing systems where personal data are accessible according to specific criteria.

The GDPR also refers to sensitive personal data as “special categories of personal data” which include data concerning health.

How will the Department of Health use the personal data it holds about me?

The Department of Health is committed to protecting and respecting your personal information in line with the provisions of the GDPR.

The Department is committed to ensuring that personal data held and processed by the Department will only be used for the specific purpose(s) for which it is collected.

The Department’s obligations to you are that:

- Data will be obtained and processed fairly;
- Data will be obtained for one or more specified, explicit and lawful purpose;
- Data will be used and disclosed only in ways compatible with that purpose;
- Data will be kept safe and secure;
- Data will be kept accurate, complete and up to date;
- Processing will be adequate, relevant and not excessive;
- Data will be retained for no longer than is necessary
- Your data will be made available to you on request.

What types of personal data are held by the Department of Health?

As part of its day to day operations the Department of Health receives and retains personal data for a wide range of purposes. Data held falls under a number of broad headings including:

- Personal data of Department of Health staff;

- Personal data of suppliers/service providers of goods and services/members of organisations who submit tenders as part of a tender process;
- Personal data obtained in records relating to litigation/Tribunals of Inquiry in which Department is involved;
- Personal data contained in correspondence from individuals and organisations;
- Personal data contained on mailing lists;
- Personal data contained in Ministerial representations received from Members of the Oireachtas and in Parliamentary Questions (PQs);
- Personal data received as part of a public consultation process, participation on working groups/advisory groups;
- Personal data relating to staff of bodies under aegis of Department;
- Personal data relating to Board members of bodies under the aegis of the Department
- Personal data relating to recognition of professional qualifications of certain categories of health and social care professionals;

Personal data held by the Department is subject to appropriate security measures to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned and staff are aware of their data protection responsibilities.

In some instances personal information held by the Department is shared with other Government Departments/Agencies, to enable the Department to perform its functions. In such cases the disclosure is made in a manner consistent with the original purpose for which the information was obtained.

What are my rights under Data Protection Legislation?

Individuals have certain rights available to them in relation to personal data held by the Department. However not all rights listed are applicable in every circumstance. These rights are outlined below and can be exercised by contacting the Data Protection Officer, as detailed above, indicating which right(s) you wish to exercise.

- Right to access your data
- Right to have inaccuracies corrected
- Right to have information erased
- Right to restriction of processing
- Right to move your data (data portability)
- Right to object to processing
- Right to withdraw consent if you previously gave consent in relation to processing of personal data;
- Rights to object to automated decision making;
- Right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Commissioner.

Right to access your personal data?

To obtain a copy of your personal data held by the Department of Health, please complete a [Subject Access Request Form](#). The completed form, along with some photographic identification (passport/drivers licence) should be returned to the address below:

Data Protection Officer
Data Protection Unit
Department of health
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2

D02 VW90

Email DPO@health.gov.ie

Phone No: 01 6354114

Under GDPR the information requested will be provided within one month.

There are a small number of circumstances in which the right to access personal data may be limited. For example individuals do not have a right to see communications between the Department and its legal advisers where it would be subject to legal privilege in court. The right of access to information relating to other people is also curtailed.

Further Information about your rights under Data Protection Legislation

The Data Protection Commissioner website has more information on the rights and responsibilities under Data Protection legislation including GDPR. You can contact the Commissioner at:

The website of the Data Protection Commissioner – www.dataprotection.ie
Tel. 1 890 252231
email on info@dataprotection.ie.

Changes to this Privacy Statement

This Privacy Statement will be kept under regular review.

Technical Information and Cookies

Further Information on the Department of Health's privacy practice in relation to its website and cookies is available [here](#).