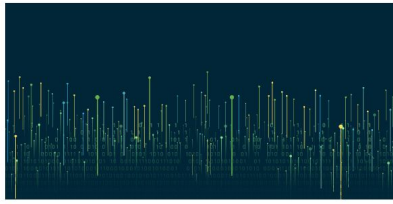




Your latest monthly update from The Office of the Data Protection Authority.

Highlights...

Breach statistics update



[Latest breach statistics published](#)

We recorded **39** personal data breaches which were reported during Q4 2023, which affected **1,115 people**. This brings the total breaches reported for 2023 to 145 (compared to 151 in 2022, 177 in 2021, and 180 in 2020).

Last chance to register or renew with ODPa to avoid penalties



[Registration window closing](#)

All organisations should renew or register by the end of February in accordance with the legal obligation under [The Data Protection \(Bailiwick of Guernsey\) Law, 2017](#). Organisations who fail to do so potentially risk appearing in the Petty Debts Court.

This month's update from our Commissioner, Brent Homan

I am new to the Island, but what I have clearly noticed is the care with which Guernsey views its youth and children. It is a care that I share as a father, and that we share as your Data Protection Authority (ODPA).

Protecting children's data rights has always been - and will remain - a key priority for our Office, as can be seen in our efforts to educate young people through our children's book "[Warro](#)", and in our work to shine a light on children's privacy throughout the recent Data Protection Day activities.

You may have also noticed the [Bailiwick Data Protection Advisory](#) that was issued following concerns raised over underage children on a Snapchat group. The goal of the advisory was to not only identify a serious privacy risk to children, but to equip parents with the tools to have conversations with their children and take actions to prevent harms.

As part of our wider efforts to safeguard children and young people in our increasingly digital world, we are also developing a '[Children's Framework](#)' to support the responsible use of children's information, aligned with relevant areas of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

A key part of developing this framework involves hearing from adults and children. That's why we are holding a [round table discussion](#) with educators from the island's schools to share their experiences and expertise as part of this process. Their input will be invaluable and we are grateful for their support.

[International co-operation](#) is another important facet of the work we do, as many data protection matters transcend national borders. We engage with a number of global networks and this month we took part in the [Global Privacy Enforcement Network's \(GPEN\)](#) 'privacy sweep', working with our international counterparts to highlight a key industry issue or trend.

The global sweep's aims include broadening public and corporate awareness of privacy rights and responsibilities, encouraging legal compliance and creating greater consumer trust by demonstrating a coordinated domestic and international regulatory presence.

On the domestic front, our [annual registration window](#) is coming to an end and we've been pleased with the response and engagement from the majority of our regulated community. There is still work to be done however, and we will continue to use our enforcement powers to [pursue non-payment of registrations](#) through the Magistrate's Court Petty Debt process.

Finally, transparency regarding data protection incidents is a key priority for our Office. To that end we have released our [quarterly breach statistics](#) for the Bailiwick.

Brent Homan
Data Protection Commissioner
Bailiwick of Guernsey

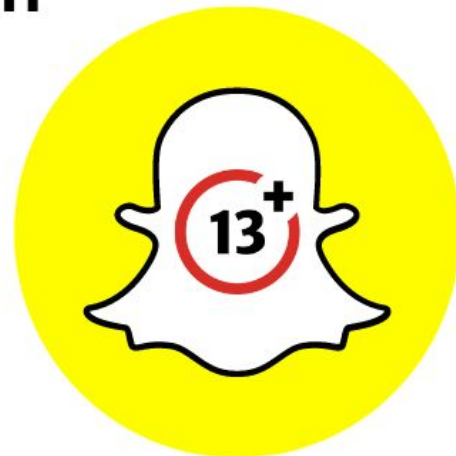
Headlines...



[ODPA sweeps gambling sites as part of a global initiative](#)

We focused on the use of 'Deceptive Design Patterns' also known as 'Dark Patterns' on gambling sites as part of the Global Privacy Enforcement Network's (GPEN) privacy sweep. Deceptive design patterns are when websites/apps deliberately try to deceive you into making unintended, unwilling or potentially harmful decisions.

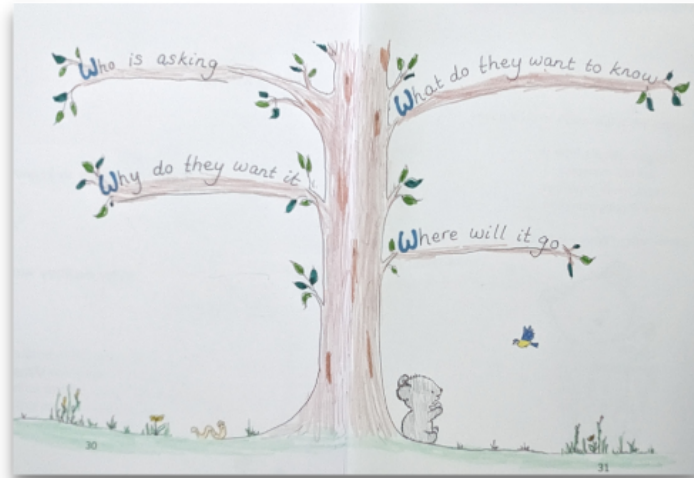
Children at risk in local Snapchat group



[Latest ODPa advisory issued after police warning](#)

The ODPa is echoing Guernsey Police's warning to Bailiwick residents of a present risk to children and their personal information via a local Snapchat group. See the [Guernsey Police warning](#) for further details.

Safer Internet Day 2024



Keeping children safe online for Safer Internet Day 2024

This year we are highlighting the **four** key questions which children and young people should keep in mind when they are looking to share personal information about themselves online:

- Who is asking?
- What do they want to know?
- Why do they want it?
- Where will it go?

These questions form the backdrop to the ODPa's children's book '[Warro goes on an adventure](#)', and feature throughout our outreach in local schools.

News in brief...

The Canadian, the Pug, the Bear and the Bailiwick



Brewed by:  THE OFFICE OF THE
Data Protection
Authority

Meet the Commissioner

In the first data protection tea break of 2024, our new Commissioner Brent Homan shares his vision for the ODPa's future as well as some of his past experiences leading high profile investigations into areas such as facial recognition, location tracking and behavioural advertising.

Kathryn Brooks



A DPO's inspirational journey into privacy

In this video for [Project Bijou](#), Cambridge Education Group Data Protection Officer and privacy training speaker Kathryn Brooks recounts her journey as a data protection advocate.

Beyond our shores



Beyond our shores

Why are concerns growing about the online lives of children? Find out more with our monthly round-up of recent data-related developments from around the world.

Commissioner's Corner



A monthly spotlight on a privacy issue making waves around the globe...

Each month our Commissioner Brent Homan delves into a privacy issue which has attracted headlines or attention across the globe. This month, it's a brief dive into children's use of social media groups and some of the associated risks.

February's Commissioner's Corner

Last month, Guernsey Police issued a chilling [warning](#) that a Snapchat group was exposing dozens of local children as young as seven to harmful content, as well as potentially coercing them to share indecent images.

It likely confirmed many parents' fears about the dangers of social media as well as being a reminder how difficult it can be to monitor these channels, particularly when some have features like 'disappearing messages'.

So what can we do - as parents, as teachers and as a community - to mitigate these risks? Well, when we do have privacy conversations with our children, it is certainly not about banning our kids from interacting with the online and virtual world - I think we all know how well that strategy works out!

The reality is that there is so much to be gained and to benefit from in today's digital era, if it is navigated with care. To that end, the conversations should centre around awareness of what is being shared, control over that information, and respect for each other.

We issued a [Bailiwick Data Protection Advisory](#) on this threat and it featured two key pieces of advice for parents and carers:

(i) have conversations with children regarding the reputational and long-term risks associated with sharing personal information via such networks, including personal photos, that could then find an indelible presence online and

(ii) ensure children are not using social networks or apps if they're under the authorised age for those networks/apps (13 for Snapchat).

We are also asking young people to pause and think before they post their information or photos. They should ask themselves the following questions:

- **How might I feel** about this post in 6 weeks, 6 months or 6 years from now?
- **Could it affect my chances** of getting into uni or my first job?
- **If I am sharing information or photos of others, how might they feel about that?** Put yourselves in their shoes – you can express yourself and have fun online while respecting the feelings and personal information of others.

Also, it is truly important **not to be lulled into a false sense of security** with features such as disappearing messages. Nothing stops individuals from taking a screenshot of your post and then sharing more broadly.

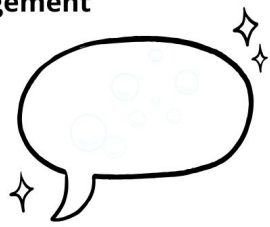
And as it relates to security measures, young people should:

- ensure that they have a **secure password** for each of their accounts, and
- **NEVER share their passwords** with friends to post on their behalf or maintain a streak.

Data protection is everyone's responsibility. By being vigilant and informed we can all do our part to protect ourselves and our community.

Coming soon...

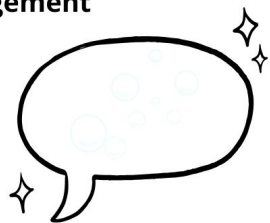
Speaking engagement



[Innovation Summit Guernsey](#)

Our Commissioner will be delivering a session to bust the myth of the privacy/innovation trade-off – demonstrating that successful and enduring innovations must be based on respect for individuals' data protection rights. **Thursday 14 March 08:30 - 17:00 at St Pierre Park.**

Speaking engagement



[It's not all fine\(s\): insights from data protection enforcement action](#)

The Bailiwick's Deputy Data Protection Commissioner Rachel Masterton will explore the key lessons that can be learned since data protection laws were strengthened in 2018. **Tuesday 19 March 12:30 - 13:30 at the GTA University Centre.**

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