



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

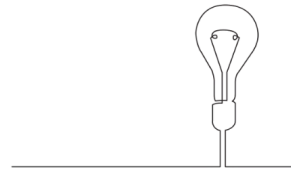
Highlights...



[Digital Innovation Summit](#)

Our Commissioner spoke at this fast-paced, forward-looking event exploring the technologies and trends of tomorrow's world. One of the leaders and changemakers invited by the Digital Greenhouse to share their experiences, [Brent delved into the relationship between innovation and privacy.](#)

NEWS



[ODPA invited to European Commission](#)

The ODPa joined high-level discussions in Brussels earlier this month. They focused on maximising the benefits of cooperation on safe data flows, and exploring new avenues for joint actions, including through enforcement cooperation.

This month's update from our Commissioner, Brent Homan

It's a popular myth that privacy and innovation can't co-exist. But the reality is that, as with any innovation, tech advances will only prosper, provide societal benefits and endure, if they are developed in a manner that is safe, secure, and respectful of the rights of those very individuals whose interests and lives they are intended to serve.

The introduction of the automobile was a massive 20th century innovation expanding individuals' reach of their world. But without the safety features of seatbelts and airbags, alongside adherence to traffic laws, the lethal consequences of road travel would have proven mortally reckless and universally untenable. And so it is with the digital age and the paramount

importance of ensuring that any tech innovation involving people's personal information is developed in a manner that fully respects individuals' privacy and data rights.

These reflections underpinned my talk at the Digital Greenhouse's Innovation Summit, an event aimed at accelerating the conversation about adapting to change, opportunities and challenges in business, with particular focus on new technologies, changing business models and the need for new skills.

Sharing ideas and experiences in a co-operative and collaborative manner both domestically and internationally plays an important role in achieving our strategic objectives.

That's why I'll be in Washington DC in April, chairing a panel on international enforcement efforts to curb unlawful data scraping (the unauthorised extraction of personal data from online platforms) at the IAPP Global Privacy Summit.

The ODPA is also one of 14 international data protection authorities which has signed a joint statement on data scraping. Together, we are engaging with global social media platforms to ensure they have sufficient safeguards in place to protect users from unlawful harvesting of their personal data.

Closer to home, I will be visiting Alderney next month for the first time, to meet with key stakeholders and the public to promote data protection rights. It's also important for us to ensure that people in Alderney can access the support they need to meet their statutory obligations.

Data protection and privacy are global concerns which transcend borders and I believe there is great value in further growing partnerships to unite our voices and ensure that our collective priorities are well served in the global community.

Brent Homan
Data Protection Commissioner
Bailiwick of Guernsey

Headlines...



[ODPA joins international efforts to prevent unlawful data scraping](#)

Commissioner Homan will chair a panel discussion on international enforcement efforts to curb unlawful data scraping at the [IAPP Global Privacy Summit](#) in Washington DC in April. The ODPa is one of 14 international data protection authorities who have signed a [joint statement](#) on the risks of data scraping (the automated extraction of personal data from online platforms). The statement calls on social media companies and other websites to better protect people's information from 'bad actors' trying to obtain it for nefarious reasons.

Children's Framework focus group



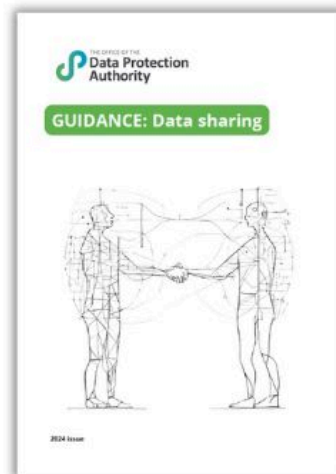
[Guernsey headteachers come together for Children's Framework](#)

We held a roundtable event for senior leaders in the education sector to share their experiences and strategies for effectively protecting the Bailiwick's children and young people. This focus group formed part of our Children's Framework stakeholder engagement.

The aim of the [Children's Framework](#), which is under development, is to further equip educators, community leaders and businesses with the tools necessary to protect children and support the responsible use of children's information.

Spotlight on guidance...

Data sharing guidance highlighted



Simple guide to data sharing

Every month we focus on a key piece of guidance to help navigate the complexities of the law. A common misconception is that data protection is a blocker to sharing information. This [guidance](#) explains how the law is designed to facilitate data sharing when you approach it in a fair and proportionate way.

News in brief...

How to keep children safe in the smartphone era



Brewed by:  THE OFFICE OF THE
Data Protection
Authority

New podcast released

As most parents or carers will tell you, screen time is an ongoing battle. How much is too much? What are they looking at?

As the Bailiwick's first digital safety development officer, Laura Simpson has at least some of the answers. She is passionate about educating and empowering young people to make safer choices online.

Emma Martins leads external review of Scottish Government's use of messaging apps



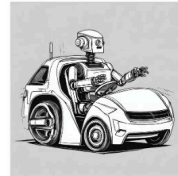
[Ex-Commissioner examines how Scottish ministers use WhatsApp](#)

It's not just children's use of social media in the spotlight. Our former Commissioner Emma Martins is leading an external review into the Scottish Government's use of WhatsApp and other messaging apps.

BLOG: Artificial Intelligence: with great power comes great responsibility



BLOG: Why robots need seatbelts



[Blog](#)

In this article, first published in Business Brief March 2024 edition, Deputy Data Protection Commissioner Rachel Masterton reflects on the challenges and opportunities of the AI revolution.

[Blog](#)

In his monthly Guernsey Press column, Data Protection Commissioner Brent Homan explains why successful and enduring innovation requires safeguarding individuals' information from the outset.

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 in the Bailiwick or across the globe. This month it's about how technological innovation can only succeed if it builds in data protection rights, an axiom never more critical than with the growth of AI.

March's Commissioner's Corner

In my column in the Guernsey Press this month, "[Why Robots Need Seatbelts](#)", I discussed how innovation needs solid data protection safeguards to ensure its success, and realise its promise in serving societal and economic goals.

As a home-grown illustration of the very real risks of mis-applied technology one needs look no further than the UK Post Office scandal, which I would describe as a perfect storm of:

- The implementation of technology clearly without adequate checks and verifications
- Unchallenged deference to what the stats and numbers say, without questioning whether there could be another explanation for patterns
- Lack of accountability and absence of timely human intervention

I believe it is safe to say that this was a reputational hit that will take the Post Office, and by extension public institutions, a while to recover from.

Well, the stakes have never been as high as they are today with Generative AI ("GenAI"). GenAI stands as a technological innovation with limitless potential including for: medicine, education, and combating climate change.

But with the great promise comes unprecedented risks that include:

- National security where used by a non-friendly state
- Unlawful scraping of personal information
- Accuracy
- Intellectual property
- Discrimination
- And oh yes... don't forget about those 'Robots'- as some experts have even identified GenAI as an existential threat to humanity

I was speaking at an event this month where an AI expert shared the fact that one organization was considering cutting recruitment by 90% given the potential labour displacement of GenAI while another expert pondered whether we are moving towards a synthetic society where we can't tell what is real/not or is true/not.

The need to amplify benefits and mitigate risk is the very reason why it is vital that data protection safeguards and rights are carefully and thoughtfully factored into Tech innovation generally and most certainly, the introduction of GenAI.

It is by leveraging the power of these two complementary concepts - innovation and data protection, that we can realise the true promise of technology to

advance societal and economic objectives in a manner that respects the data protection rights of the individuals that those technologies are intended serve.

Coming soon...

Alderney drop-in 

General public welcome
Friday 12 April
2 - 4 pm
The Georgian House 

Feel free to drop-in for a confidential session with one of our team
email: communications@odpa.gg

[ODPA to visit Alderney.](#)

We will be in Alderney next month to offer support to local residents and businesses. We believe that everyone in the Bailiwick should have access to information and advice about their rights and obligations under data protection legislation.

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