



Your latest quarterly update from Project Bijou.

This quarter's update from our Commissioner, Brent Homan

As the new Data Protection Commissioner for the Bailiwick of Guernsey, I am absolutely thrilled to “take the pen” in my first Bijou newsletter and the ODPa's first of 2024!

I have long been a fan of Project Bijou and its underlying philosophy – changing culture through the sharing of stories. And there are few regulatory fields more well-suited to the telling of stories than data protection. While privacy laws outline principles with respect to the collection, use, disclosure and retention of personal information, it is the stories that reveal the intimate relationship that we have with data in today's digital era. Our personal information has quite simply become an extension of our corporeal being – enriching how we feel, how we struggle, how we celebrate and who we are. And that is why it must be treated with the utmost care and respect, by governments, businesses, schools, charities and ourselves.

So to start things off this season [we have an interview conducted by Kirsty Bougourd with, well.....me!](#) Kirsty and I have an informal chat that covers a lot of ground, including: my vision for data protection in the Bailiwick, why elevated data protection practices are drivers for economic prosperity and citizens' trust, and finally, speaking of driving, even my personal ambition to properly navigate Guernsey's 'excitingly narrow' roads, on the side of the lane I am not quite used to.

And we also have for you an [inspiring interview conducted by Katherine Levy Spencer with Kathryn Brooks](#), the DPO for the Cambridge Education Group. Kathryn recounts her journey as a Data Protection advocate, from the early worrisome days where people feared that new laws could 'sink businesses' and 'stop innovation' to her personal realisation of the promise of privacy rights towards modernising businesses and empowering individuals with freedom, knowledge and control over their data.

So relax, put your 'do not disturb' on, grab your favorite beverage and have a listen to our first Bijou offerings of the year!

- Brent Homan
Data Protection Commissioner
Bailiwick of Guernsey

Bijou stories to share...

Kathryn Brooks



VIDEO: A DPO's inspirational journey into privacy

In this conversation Cambridge Education Group DPO and privacy training speaker Kathryn Brooks recounts her journey as a data protection advocate. Like many working in data protection, it wasn't a field Kathryn meant to end up in and in the early days, she and her colleagues feared that new laws could 'sink businesses' and 'stop innovation'.

But determined to see how she could work with new legislation, Kathryn embarked on a path of discovery and learning, both as an individual and as a company. She discovered a passion for privacy and the promise of privacy rights towards modernising businesses and empowering individuals with freedom, knowledge and choice over their data.

The Canadian, the Pug, the Bear and the Bailiwick



PODCAST: The Canadian, the Pug, the Bear and the Bailiwick

Kirsty Bougourd chats to Brent about his plans to build on the existing work of the Office of the Data Protection Authority through a 3 pillars strategy of balance, trust and partnership.

He talks about what the regulated community can expect from the ODPa and his plans to continue to engage and support the islands' population. Brent discusses the global aspect of work relating to data protection and how living in smaller jurisdictions can magnify the risks.

They also discuss continuing to develop activities and resources to support young people and to educate parents and their children about how new technology uses their data and can both enhance their lives but also potentially cause harm.

In particular, Brent highlights the ongoing work developing a [Children's Framework](#) to help set guidelines on the use of young people's data in the Bailiwick and the [need for people to take part in the survey](#) to produce something fit for purpose.

Kirsty and Brent also chat about the big move and how him and his family are all settling in and embracing island life.

Over to you...

If you wish to play an active part in Project Bijou, below are some suggestions for what you can do:

1. Let us know who you want to hear from

Is there someone locally or further afield that you would like us to approach to be a contributor to Project Bijou? Maybe you know someone that is inspiring and can help us expand these conversations? Perhaps you have your own story to share? [Let us know](#).

2. Pick up your 'Bijou Box'

If you have not already done so, visit the ODPA to pick up your 'Bijou Box' ([find us here](#)). The box itself, and its contents, are designed to help keep the project in your mind, and to spark conversations with others.

3. Pass the baton

The more people that know about Project Bijou the bigger its community will get which in turn will help its goals be achieved. You can help grow this community by inviting others to take a look at the [project's resources](#), or to become a [subscriber to this newsletter](#).

Take a look at the Toolkit ([page 8 of this document](#)) for other suggested project work.

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