



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

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Dear Stakeholder,

Today Prince Charles announced that the Government will introduce a Bill in the Third Session to reform the existing Data Protection Framework. Since the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was implemented in the UK, we have seen how researchers and businesses have been held back by the lack of clarity in the legislation as well as the disproportionate burdens it can create. Having delivered Brexit, we have the opportunity to build an independent UK data protection regime that works in our interests by diverging in a controlled, proportionate and beneficial way from retained EU laws.

DCMS consulted on an ambitious package of reforms to create a new regime that is pro-growth and trusted for our citizens and businesses. I'm grateful for all those who submitted their views on the proposed consultation, and we will publish our response to this consultation shortly.

The bill will be built upon the fundamental principles and rights of the UK's current regime ensuring our commitment to maintaining high data protection standards. The bill will contain measures that were consulted on that simplify the clunky bits of GDPR, but will also make good on the government's commitment to legislate for other policies in similar subject areas, such as increasing industry participation in Smart Data schemes and enabling a secure and trusted digital identity market across the economy.

The bill will reduce the burdens on businesses and organisations that impede the responsible use of data. Businesses will have the opportunity to protect personal data in the most proportionate and appropriate way, making them more efficient, and scientists will be able to focus resources on researching, rather than the paperwork of privacy.

We will modernise the Information Commissioner's Office, making sure it has the capabilities and powers to keep pace with organisations who breach data rules while balancing its independence with more accountability to Parliament and the public.

I appreciate that reforms to the UK's data protection laws may invite questions in regards to the EU's adequacy decisions. The UK is firmly committed to maintaining high data protection standards, and we will continue to operate a high-quality regime that promotes growth and innovation and underpins the trustworthy use of data. EU adequacy decisions do not require an 'adequate' country to have the same rules, and our view is that reform of UK legislation on personal data will be compatible with maintaining free flow of personal data from Europe.

We will set out further details of the proposed measures we will take forward shortly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email data.reform@dcms.gov.uk, and we look forward to working with you as we reform the UK's data protection laws.

Yours Sincerely,

Jenny Hall