

Some frequently asked questions and answers about GDPR

Here are some frequently asked questions about the GDPR and why we're making changes to our contract. If you have any questions that we haven't answered, please have a look at the ICO's [guide to GDPR](#).

What is the GDPR?

Answer

GDPR stands for the General Data Protection Regulation. It's a new, European-wide law that replaces the Data Protection Act 1998 in the UK. The UK has now made this into a law, called the Data Protection Act 2018 and it involves the protection of personal data and the rights of individuals. It also places more obligations on how organisations handle personal data.

When does GDPR come into effect?

Answer

It came into effect on 25 May 2018.

Who is affected by the GDPR?

Answer

It applies to all business activities of EU-based organisations that involve processing personal data, even if the processing itself isn't taking place in the EU. It also applies to any EU residents' personal data processed by non-EU organisations if they are offering goods or services to those EU residents. And, it applies if those organisations are monitoring EU residents' on-line activity when that takes place in the EU.

What do you mean by data processing?

Answer

Data processing is anything we do with personal data such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing or adapting it. It also includes how we manage and store personal data so that we can provide you with relevant products and services.

What is personal data?

Answer

The law tells us that it is any information relating to an 'identified or identifiable natural person' that can be used to identify them; for example, a name, address, telephone number, or IP address. GDPR applies only to personal data of a living person and not to anybody who is deceased. And while it applies to sole traders, it doesn't apply to companies.

What responsibilities do organisations have under this new regulation?

Answer

Many of our responsibilities aren't new, they were already covered by the previous law. GDPR just aims to create more transparency and give more control to individuals over how organisations collect, store and process their personal data.

What effect, if any, does Brexit have on GDPR?

Answer

UK businesses still need to be GDPR ready for two reasons. Firstly, GDPR became law on 25 May 2018, which is before Brexit. Also, the UK government has put in place the Data Protection Act 2018 as part of the EU Withdrawal Bill.

Where can I find the BT privacy policy?

Answer

You can find our privacy policy on the [BT plc website](#).

Why are our contract terms changing?

Answer

The GDPR requires specific things to be put in contracts where a business is processing personal data on behalf of another business. This is why we've changed our contract.

I can't find my product on the website you sent me to; does that mean this information doesn't apply to me?

Answer

Because we need to make some general changes for all our products and services, the letter does still apply to you. We'll only provide product specific information for services where we process personal data on your behalf.

We're in the process of updating our website with information on products and services. We'll only add more information for services where we process personal data on your behalf. If your service is not listed, we may not be processing personal data as part of your service.

What has BT done to be GDPR Ready?

Answer

BT upholds the highest standards of data privacy. We've taken the key steps to ensure that we're in line with GDPR and we view the commitment to the highest standards of data privacy as an ongoing process. We'll continue to collaborate with the regulatory authorities as required to share details of the extensive programme of work we've been running to achieve compliance.

We've undertaken the extensive programme of work since early last year to ensure that we're in line with the new regulations. Key steps include:

- re-writing our main customer-facing privacy policies
- creating a system to allow tight management of data across systems

- introducing a new group-wide Privacy Impact Assessment tool so that we design privacy into all of our products, service and ways of working
- appointment of a Group DPO
- updating our corporate customer and supplier contracts
- implementing an awareness plan across BT group

We're confident that we've already taken the most important measures that most directly impact on our customers' rights and the protection of their data. We're moving rapidly to completion of our programme and in that regard, we're in the same situation as many other organisations. Upholding high standards of data privacy is already a key part of our business, so we'll continue building on the work to continue to enhance the privacy culture throughout our business.