

**To: All General Dental Services
Practitioners**

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9th March 2018

Dear Colleague,

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR) 2018

As you may be aware new data protection legislation is due to come into force during May 2018, which aims to protect the privacy of all EU citizens and prevent data breaches. The new legislation will apply to any public or private organisation processing personal data.

The previously established key principles of data privacy will remain relevant in the new data protection legislation and where an organisation has strong policies and processes for complying with the current legislation then much of the approach to complying will remain valid under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The new Regulations are however extensive and we would recommend that you take time to understand the responsibilities they bring to your organisation.

The HSCB would advise you to refer to guidance from your Professional Body, Indemnity Provider and in particular the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) <https://ico.org.uk/> which is a useful source of information, in particular the following:

- Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation¹

¹ <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

- Preparing for the General Protection Regulation (GDPR) 12 steps to take now'.²
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) FAQs for small health sector bodies³

One specific requirement of the GDPR for Health and Social Care organisations who are public authorities is the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO). From guidance available it would suggest that providers of HSC funded Primary Care services are classed as Public Authorities and it is therefore your responsibility to consider this requirement and establish how best your needs can be met in this regard. Available guidance states the DPO role is necessary if:

- the processing is carried out by a public authority or body (irrespective of what data is being processed)
or
- the core activities of the controller or the processor consist of processing operations, which require regular and systematic monitoring of data subjects on a large scale
or
- the core activities of the controller or the processor consist of processing on a large scale of special categories of data or personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences.

Further guidance on the DPO role can be found on the ICO website.
<https://ico.org.uk/>

If you have any queries, please contact Marlene Drummond on marlene.drummond@hscni.net or 028 95 362845.

Yours sincerely



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² <https://ico.org.uk/media/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

³ <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/health/health-gdpr-fags/>