**Colleges IT Conference**

**Data Protection Policy**

**(Personal information, its processing and privacy)**

**Purpose and scope**

* 1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with **data protection law** in the UK. Data protection law applies to the **processing** (collection, storage, use and transfer) of **personal information** (data and other personal identifiers) about **data subjects (**living identifiable individuals).
  2. Under data protection law, the Colleges IT Conference is exempt from registering as a data controller as a not-for-profit organisation that processes data only necessary to provide or administer activities for people who are members of the organisation or have regular contact with it.
  3. This policy applies to all College IT Conference **committee members** and **volunteers**, except when they are acting in a private or external capacity.
  4. This policy should be read in conjunction with:
  + College Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations;
  + staff employment contracts and comparable documents (which outline confidentiality obligations when processing information of the College);
  + policies, procedures and terms of conditions of the College and, where relevant, similar documents of the University of Cambridge with regard to:
* information security;
* acceptable use of IT facilities (including use of personal devices);
* records management and retention;
* any other contractual obligations on the College or the individual which impose confidentiality or information management obligations (which may at times exceed those of College policies with respect to storage or security requirements – e.g. for funded research).
  1. This policy is reviewed at least once every 2 years. The committee remains responsible for ensuring appropriate resources are in place to achieve compliance with data protection law in line with an appropriate overall risk profile.

**Obligations of the CITC**

* 1. The Colleges IT Conference upholds data protection law as part of everyday working practices, through:

1. ensuring all **personal information** (see Annex) is managed appropriately through this policy;
2. understanding, and applying as necessary, the **data protection principles** (see Annex) when processing personal information;
3. understanding, and fulfilling as necessary, the **rights given to data subjects** (see Annex) under data protection law;
4. understanding, and implementing as necessary, the CITC’s **accountability obligations** (see Annex) under data protection law; and
5. the publication of **data protection statements** outlining the details of its personal data processing in a clear and transparent manner.
   1. The CITC shall otherwise ensure all committee members and volunteers are aware of this policy and any associated procedures and notes of guidance relating to data protection compliance, provide training as appropriate, and review regularly its procedures and processes to ensure they are fit for purpose. It shall also maintain records of its information assets.
   2. Individual committee members and volunteers are responsible for:
6. completing relevant data protection training, as advised by the CITC;
7. following relevant CITC policies, procedures and notes of guidance;
8. only accessing and using personal information as necessary for their duties and/or other roles;
9. ensuring personal information they have access to is not disclosed unnecessarily or inappropriately;
10. where identified, reporting personal data breaches, and co-operating with authorities to address them; and
    1. The obligations outlined above do not waive any personal liability for individual criminal offences for the wilful misuse of personal data under data protection legislation.

*Last updated: 03/01/2024  
Colleges IT Committee*

**Annex**

**Legal Definition of personal information**

Personal information is defined as data or other information about a living person who may be identified from it or combined with other data or information held. Some “special category data” (formerly sensitive personal data) are defined as information regarding an individual’s racial or ethnic origin; political opinion; religious or other beliefs; trade union membership; physical or mental health or condition; sexual life; or criminal proceedings or convictions, as well as their genetic or biometric information.

**Data Protection Principles**

The data protection principles state that personal data shall be:

* processed (i.e. collected, handled, stored, disclosed and destroyed) fairly, lawfully and transparently. As part of this, the College must have a ‘legal basis’ for processing an individual’s personal data (most commonly, the processing is necessary for the College to operate a contract with them, the processing is necessary to fulfil a legal obligation, the processing is in the legitimate interests of the College and does not override their privacy considerations, or they have consented to the processing);
* processed only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes;
* adequate, relevant and limited;
* accurate (and rectified if inaccurate);
* not kept for longer than necessary;
* processed securely.

**Data Subject Rights**

An individual’s rights (all of which are qualified in different ways) are as follows:

* the right to be informed of how their personal data are being used. This right is usually fulfilled by the provision of ‘privacy notices’ (also known as ‘data protection statements’ or, especially in the context of websites, ‘privacy policies’) which set out how an organisation plans to use an individual’s personal data, who it will be shared with, ways to complain, and so on;
* the right of access to their personal data;
* the right to have their inaccurate personal data rectified;
* the right to have their personal data erased (right to be forgotten);
* the right to restrict the processing of their personal data pending its verification or correction;
* the right to receive copies of their personal data in a machine-readable and commonly-used format (right to data portability);
* the right to object: to processing (including profiling) of their data that proceeds under particular legal bases; to direct marketing; and to processing of their data for research purposes where that research is not in the public interest;
* the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated decision-making using their personal data.

**Accountability**

The CITC is required under law to:

* comply with data protection law and hold records demonstrating this;
* implement policies, procedures, processes and training to promote “data protection by design and by default”;
* have appropriate contracts in place when outsourcing functions that involve the processing of personal data;
* maintain records of the data processing that is carried out;
* record and report personal data breaches;
* carry out, where relevant, data protection impact assessment on high risk processing activities;
* cooperate with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) as the UK regulator of data protection law;
* respond to regulatory/court action and pay administrative levies and fines issued by the ICO.