

What is a data protection officer? When do you need one?



UK and EU

A DPO is required under UK and EU data protection legislation if you are a public authority or if you are a data processor or a data controller and your core activities:

- Require large scale, regular and systematic monitoring of individuals (like online tracking of behaviour); or
- Involve large scale processing of special categories of data (like health data) or criminal conviction and offense data.

Some companies choose to appoint a DPO even if they do not fall within the above criteria. DPO responsibilities include informing, training and advising the organization on data protection compliance, conducting or reviewing data protection impact assessments and monitoring compliance. They are a key contact point for regulators and data subjects.



Singapore

It is mandatory for any organization that collects, uses or discloses personal data in Singapore to appoint a DPO, regardless of their size or the scale of their data processing activities.

It is also compulsory for the organization to make available to the public the contact information of its DPO. Failure to comply with this can result in financial penalties.

Can DPO services be outsourced?

Yes, data protection laws allow for a DPO to be internally or externally appointed. Data protection laws require that a DPO has the necessary training and resources. The DPO also needs to be able to act independently (and so cannot hold a decision-making position at a company). These issues can be resolved by outsourcing the DPO function.

DPO services from datarologie

datarologie is a privacy solutions service from leading international law firm Reed Smith. Led by experienced privacy lawyers and practitioners, we have extensive knowledge of data protection law and how to deal with regulators and data subjects in the UK, EU and Singapore. Our DPO services can be tailored to your requirements depending on the level of support and resource you need, which may change as you grow.



We offer DPO services on an ongoing monthly or short-term basis (for example, to cover your existing DPO's maternity or paternity leave, sickness or annual leave).

Base services

- A dedicated contact point will allow regulators to contact us and for you to register us as your DPO with the relevant authorities.
- Regular data protection updates.
- Annual training session.
- Agreed number of hours per month to handle queries from the business, data subjects and regulators, data breach reporting, assessments and reviews.
- Annual report to the board.

Additional services

- Detailed audit and compliance program implementation.
- Quarterly reports to the board.
- Data subject access request response service.
- Other data protection legal, consultancy and compliance tools.

Next steps

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please contact us at info@datarologie.com.