

DATA PROTECTION (JERSEY) LAW 2005

*PROTECTION OF
PRIVACY ON THE
INTERNET*

http://www

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DATA PROTECTION (JERSEY) LAW 2005:

Protection of Privacy on the Internet

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Introduction

Security is the greatest challenge to data protection today. It is easy to see and understand the benefits the Internet offers individuals, allowing immediate access to global information and markets and facilitating direct global communications. The Internet however can also be used as a tool for criminals seeking to commit online fraud, and as such it is however worth remembering a few points which will go a long way to ensuring the protection of your privacy whilst online.

Key points to remember:

- The Internet is not secure. There is a risk that information provided over the Internet might be intercepted by people you wouldn't want to read it.
- Information you provide to a website or send via e-mail may be made available anywhere in the world and may not be protected by data protection legislation.
- Never provide information on-line unless you are confident you know what the website intends to use the information for.
- Is more information being collected than is absolutely necessary? Be aware of this when accessing a site or making a transaction, especially if it is not clear why this additional information is being requested. Don't be afraid to ask. Just because you are asked a question doesn't mean you have to answer it.
- Show caution with your credit card and account numbers, for example, are your details security protected? Remember your information can be used and abused.
- If you do give details of credit cards or bank details when shopping on-line, be sure to check that the site you are using is secure. Most secure sites indicate this with a padlock symbol at the foot of the page.
- The best way to protect your privacy when using services over the Internet is to avoid giving your name or other personal details out over the Internet, unless via a secure site. If anonymity is impractical you may use a pseudonym (if permitted by law) so that only you and your ISP (Internet Service Provider) know your personal identity, for example when signing on to use a chat room.
- Information may be collected from you on the Internet without your knowledge. Your ISP will have access to a lot of detailed information relating to you. Always choose a reliable ISP. Enquire what data they collect, process and store, in

what way and for what purpose. Do this periodically. If you want to know what information your ISP or any other service or website provider (based in the European Economic Area) holds about you can make a subject access request.

- Websites you visit may also implant software known as 'cookies' on your machine which can collect information about you. Some of these cookies serve a useful purpose, for example they can be used to facilitate on line 'shopping baskets' but some are used to track your movements on the Internet. Check your 'Cookie' files and consider deleting those you do not want.
- You can also control the cookies you want to accept, dependant on the level of risk you are prepared to take. This can be done through the Internet Options window of your Web browser.
- E-mail addresses are personal data. If you find yourself on a directory or user list you can request to be omitted from it.
- You can also ask not to be sent 'junk e-mail or SPAM' and where the sender is based in the EEA they should comply with your request.
- Consider using reliable encryption techniques for confidential e-mail.
- Where the use of passwords is required, make sure that you create a strong password which is difficult to crack. Use a combination of both letters, upper and lower case, and numbers.
- Try and keep up to date with the latest privacy and security risks on the Internet. Try the Internet search engine facilities using the words 'privacy' and 'security', or purchase reputable anti-virus software if you do not have one already installed. Many of the major software designers provide up to date guidance on Internet privacy on their websites.

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