

# Barrister Data Protection Policy

## Data Controller

Janaka Siriwardena (“the Barrister”) is the data controller under the General Data Protection Regulation, which means that he/she determines for what purposes personal information is held or may be used. He/She is also responsible for notifying the Information Commissioner of the personal information he/she holds or is likely to hold, and the general purposes for which this personal information will be used.

## Introduction

The Barrister is committed to being transparent about how he/she collects and uses certain personal information about individuals, and to meeting his/her data protection obligations.

Relevant individuals/data subjects may include clients, customers, suppliers, business contacts, employees of Central Court Chambers, contractors and other people with whom the practice has a relationship with or may need to contact.

This policy describes how individuals’/data subjects’ personal information must be collected, handled and stored to meet data protection standards and to comply with the law. The General Data Protection Regulation applies regardless of whether personal information is stored electronically, on paper or in other formats.

To comply with the law, personal information must be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed unlawfully.

The General Data Protection Regulation is underpinned by six important principles. They say that personal information must be:

1. Processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner;
2. Collected for specific, explicit, and legitimate purposes;
3. Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for processing;

4. Kept accurate and all reasonable steps to ensure that inaccurate personal information is rectified or deleted without delay;
5. Kept only for the period necessary for processing;
6. Secure and protected against unauthorised or unlawful processing, and accidental loss, destruction or damage.

#### General Data Protection Policy Information

The Barrister will take all reasonable steps, through appropriate management and strict application of criteria and controls, to:

- Observe fully conditions regarding the fair collection and use of personal information;
- Meet its legal obligations to specify the purposes for which personal information is used;
- Collect and process appropriate personal information, and only to the extent that it is needed to fulfil its operational needs or to comply with any legal requirements;
- Ensure the quality of personal information used;
- Ensure appropriate retention and disposal of personal information;
- Ensure that the rights of people about whom personal information is held, can be fully exercised under the GDPR. These include:
  - o The right to be informed
  - o The right of access
  - o The right to rectification
  - o The right to erase
  - o The right to restrict processing
  - o The right to data portability
  - o The right to object
  - o Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.
- Take appropriate technical and organisational security measures to safeguard personal information;
- Ensure that personal information is not transferred outside the EEA without suitable safeguards;
- Treat people justly and fairly whatever their age, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity when dealing with requests for personal information;
- Set out clear procedures for responding to requests for personal information.

#### Data Storage

The Barrister takes seriously the security of personal information and records relating to service users and will ensure such information and records are stored securely and are accessible only to authorised employees of Central Court Chambers and contractors.

Internal policies and controls are in place to protect personal information against loss, accidental destruction, misuse or disclosure, and to safeguard personal information against unauthorised access. Personal information will be stored for only as long as it is needed or required by statute and will be disposed of appropriately.

Where the Barrister engages third parties to process personal information on its behalf, such parties do so on the basis of written instructions, are under a duty of confidentiality and are obliged to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of personal information.

The Barrister will ensure all personal and company data is non-recoverable from any computer system previously used within Central Court Chambers, which has been passed on/sold to a third party.

#### Data Access and Accuracy

All individuals/data subjects have the right to access the personal information held about them, except where specific exemptions apply to a legal professional. The Barrister will take reasonable steps to ensure that this personal information is kept up to date.

In addition, the Barrister will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:

- Everyone processing personal information understands that they are contractually responsible for following good data protection practice
- Everyone processing personal information is appropriately trained to do so
- Everyone processing personal information is appropriately supervised
- Anybody interested in making enquiries about handling personal information knows what to do
- It deals promptly and courteously with any enquiries about handling personal information
- It describes clearly how it handles personal information
- It will regularly review and audit the ways it holds, manages and uses personal information
- It regularly assesses and evaluates its methods and performance in relation to handling personal information
- All employees of Central Court Chambers are aware that a breach of the rules and procedures identified in this policy may lead to disciplinary action being taken against them.

## Disclosure

The Barrister may share personal information that he/she has collected with:

- Instructing solicitors.
- Legal representatives for other parties for the purpose of enabling communication (such as providing a name when stating on whose behalf been instructed).
- Central Court Chambers management and staff who provide administrative services.
- Regulator or legal advisors in the event of a dispute or other legal matter.
- Law enforcement officials, government authorities, or other third parties to meet legal obligations.
- The courts, arbitrator or adjudicator in the ordinary course of proceedings.
- Any other party where ask and consent given to the sharing.

And with the following (subject to any instructions given to the contrary):

- Pupil or mini pupil, under training.
- Counsel in Chambers, where they have also been instructed or for the purposes of proof reading or obtaining a second opinion on an informal basis.
- Legal representatives for other parties, for the purposes of resolving the case.
- Mediator during the course of a mediation.

The Barrister may share personal information with other agencies such as government departments and other relevant parties.

Individual/data subjects will be made aware in most circumstances how and with whom their personal information will be shared.

There are circumstances where the law allows the Barrister to disclose personal information (including sensitive personal information) without the individual's/data subject's consent. These circumstances arise where the individual/data subject has already made the information public or where the data controller is:

- a) Carrying out a legal duty or as authorised by the Secretary of State;
- b) Protecting vital interests of an individual/data subject or other person;
- c) The individual/data subject has already made the information public;
- d) Conducting any legal proceedings, obtaining legal advice or defending any legal rights;
- e) Monitoring for equal opportunities purposes – ie race, disability or religion;
- f) Providing a confidential service where the individual/data subject's consent cannot be obtained or where it is reasonable to proceed without consent: eg where we would

wish to avoid forcing stressed or ill individuals'/data subjects to provide consent signatures.

#### Data Protection Training

The Barrister will ensure that he/she is appropriately trained in data protection requirements and procedures annually. A register will be kept of training undertaken.

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice in data management, security and control and to ensure compliance with any changes or amendments made to the General Data Protection Regulation.

Central Court Chambers  
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