

Virtual Data Protection Officer

Outsourced expertise for data protection compliance

February 2018





What is a DPO?

The DPO's role is to ensure compliance with the data protection laws that apply to the organisation, and it carries many responsibilities. The DPO: informs and advises the organisation's staff regarding their legal obligations; monitors compliance with the law; manages staff awareness and training regarding data protection; acts as the contact point with the data protection authorities; is the point of contact for queries from individuals whose data is being processed; and manages the overall risk around the organisation's processing of personal data.

Who can be a DPO?

There is presently no formal qualification requirement for a DPO, with the law instead stating that suitability is based on "professional qualities and, in particular, expert knowledge of data protection law and practices". The organisation must also ensure that the DPO has sufficient time in his or her schedule, and appropriate access to staff at all levels, to carry out the necessary duties effectively and in a timely manner.



Do I need a DPO?

Many organisations are obliged to appoint a DPO: if you're a public authority, for example or you process large amounts of data systematically and frequently. You also require a DPO if you process particularly sensitive data on a large scale (examples include data about individuals' health, religion or criminal records).

Even if you're not legally obliged to have a DPO, engaging an external data protection specialist gives your organisation access to specialist knowledge and experience.

Why would I outsource my DPO function?

Large organisations can normally justify the cost of employing and supporting an in-house DPO to deal with their data protection compliance requirements. Organisations that cannot justify the expense of a full-time role, on the other hand, can engage an external DPO on a part-time basis and focus their remaining resources on core business streams. Furthermore, in the Channel Islands it can be difficult to recruit a suitable full-time DPO if you don't already have the necessary skills in-house.

In addition, an external DPO brings independent, unbiased reporting of data protection matters to senior management and to the Board.

How Grant Thornton can help you

Our data protection specialists will work with you to:

- Understand the personal data you hold and process, and deal with the associated risks.
- Register processing activities with the relevant data protection authorities.
- Implement policies and procedures for effective operation of data protection practices.
- Manage access requests from data subjects.
- Monitor compliance and change.
- Report regularly to senior management.
- Provide training and guidance to staff regarding data protection.

For more information please contact:



David Cartwright

Senior Consultant, Information Security

T +44 (0) 1534 885813

E david.cartwright@gt-ci.com



Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

grantthorntonci.com

© 2017 Grant Thornton Limited. All rights reserved.

'Grant Thornton' refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires. Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL) and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions.