

## **DATA PROTECTION POLICY**

### **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1.1 Everyone has rights with regard to the way in which their personal data is handled. During the course of our activities we will collect, store and process personal data about our customers, suppliers and other third parties, and we recognise that the correct and lawful treatment of this data will maintain confidence in our organisation and will provide for successful business operations.
- 1.2 Data users are obliged to comply with this policy when processing personal data on our behalf.

### **2. ABOUT THIS POLICY**

- 2.1 The types of personal data that we may be required to handle include information about current, past and prospective suppliers, clients, introducers, and others that we communicate with. The personal data, which may be held on paper or on a computer or other media, is subject to certain legal safeguards specified in the Data Protection Act 1998 (the Act) and other regulations.
- 2.2 This policy and any other documents referred to in it sets out the basis on which we will process any personal data we collect from data subjects, or that is provided to us by data subjects or other sources.
- 2.3 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and may be amended at anytime.
- 2.4 This policy sets out rules on data protection and the legal conditions that must be satisfied when we obtain, handle, process, transfer and store personal data.
- 2.5 Questions about the operation of this policy or any concerns that the policy has not been followed should be referred in the first instance to the Data Protection Compliance Manager (if appointed) or the principal of the organisation.

### 3. DEFINITION OF DATA PROTECTION TERMS

- 3.1 **Data** is information which is stored electronically, on a computer, or in certain paper-based filing systems.
- 3.2 **Data subjects** for the purpose of this policy include all living individuals about whom we hold personal data. A data subject need not be a UK national or resident. All data subjects have legal rights in relation to their personal information.
- 3.3 **Personal data** means data relating to a living individual who can be identified from that data (or from that data and other information in our possession). Personal data can be factual (for example, a name, address or date of birth) or it can be an opinion about that person, their actions and behaviour.
- 3.4 **Data controllers** are the people who or organisations which determine the purposes for which, and the manner in which, any personal data is processed. They are responsible for establishing practices and policies in line with the Act. We are the data controller of all personal data used in our business for our own commercial purposes.
- 3.5 **Data users** are those whose work involves processing personal data. Data users must protect the data they handle in accordance with this data protection policy and any applicable data security procedures at all times.
- 3.6 **Data processors** include any person or organisation that is not a data user that processes personal data on our behalf and on our instructions. Employees of data controllers are excluded from this definition but it could include suppliers which handle personal data on RPSA's behalf.
- 3.7 **Processing** is any activity that involves use of the data. It includes obtaining, recording or holding the data, or carrying out any operation or set of operations on the data including organising, amending, retrieving, using, disclosing, erasing or destroying it. Processing also includes transferring personal data to third parties.
- 3.8 **Sensitive personal data** includes information about a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or similar beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health or condition or sexual life, or about the commission of, or proceedings for, any offence committed or alleged to have been committed by that person, the disposal of such proceedings or the sentence of any court in such proceedings. Sensitive personal data can only be processed under strict conditions, including a condition requiring the express permission of the person concerned.

#### 4. DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

Anyone processing personal data must comply with the eight enforceable principles of good practice. These provide that personal data must be:

- (a) Processed fairly and lawfully.
- (b) Processed for limited purposes and in an appropriate way.
- (c) Adequate, relevant and not excessive for the purpose.
- (d) Accurate.
- (e) Not kept longer than necessary for the purpose.
- (f) Processed in line with data subjects' rights.
- (g) Secure.
- (h) Not transferred to people or organisations situated in countries without adequate protection.

#### 5. FAIR AND LAWFUL PROCESSING

5.1 The Act is not intended to prevent the processing of personal data, but to ensure that it is done fairly and without adversely affecting the rights of the data subject.

5.2 For personal data to be processed lawfully, they must be processed on the basis of one of the legal grounds set out in the Act. These include, among other things, the data subject's consent to the processing, or that the processing is necessary for the performance of a contract with the data subject, for the compliance with a legal obligation to which the data controller is subject, or for the legitimate interest of the data controller or the party to whom the data is disclosed. When sensitive personal data is being processed, additional conditions must be met. When processing personal data as data controllers in the course of our business, we will ensure that those requirements are met.



## **6. PROCESSING FOR LIMITED PURPOSES**

- 6.1 In the course of our business, we may collect and process the personal data set out in Schedule 1. This may include data we receive directly from a data subject (for example, by completing forms or by corresponding with us by mail, phone, email or otherwise) and data we receive from other sources (including, for example, business partners, sub-contractors in technical, payment and delivery services, credit reference agencies and others).
- 6.2 We will only process personal data for the specific purposes set out in Schedule 1 or for any other purposes specifically permitted by the Act. We will notify those purposes to the data subject when we first collect the data or as soon as possible thereafter.

## **7. NOTIFYING DATA SUBJECTS**

- 7.1 If we collect personal data directly from data subjects, we will inform them about:
- (a) The purpose or purposes for which we intend to process that personal data.
  - (b) The types of third parties, if any, with which we will share or to which we will disclose that personal data.
  - (c) The means, if any, with which data subjects can limit our use and disclosure of their personal data.
- 7.2 If we receive personal data about a data subject from other sources, we will provide the data subject with this information as soon as possible thereafter.
- 7.3 We will also inform data subjects whose personal data we process that we are the data controller with regard to that data, [and who the Data Protection Compliance Manager is].



**8. ADEQUATE, RELEVANT AND NON-EXCESSIVE PROCESSING**

We will only collect personal data to the extent that it is required for the specific purpose notified to the data subject.

**9. ACCURATE DATA**

We will ensure that personal data we hold is accurate and kept up to date. We will check the accuracy of any personal data at the point of collection and at regular intervals afterwards. We will take all reasonable steps to destroy or amend inaccurate or out-of-date data.

**10. TIMELY PROCESSING**

We will not keep personal data longer than is necessary for the purpose or purposes for which they were collected. We will take all reasonable steps to destroy, or erase from our systems, all data which is no longer required.

**11. PROCESSING IN LINE WITH DATA SUBJECT'S RIGHTS**

We will process all personal data in line with data subjects' rights, in particular their right to:

- (a) Request access to any data held about them by a data controller (see also paragraph 14).
- (b) Prevent the processing of their data for direct-marketing purposes.
- (c) Ask to have inaccurate data amended (see also paragraph 9).
- (d) Prevent processing that is likely to cause damage or distress to themselves or anyone else.

## 12. DATA SECURITY

- 12.1 We will take appropriate security measures against unlawful or unauthorised processing of personal data, and against the accidental loss of, or damage to, personal data.
- 12.2 We will put in place procedures and technologies to maintain the security of all personal data from the point of collection to the point of destruction. Personal data will only be transferred to a data processor if he agrees to comply with those procedures and policies, or if he puts in place adequate measures himself.
- 12.3 We will maintain data security by protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the personal data, defined as follows:
- (a) **Confidentiality** means that only people who are authorised to use the data can access it.
  - (b) **Integrity** means that personal data should be accurate and suitable for the purpose for which it is processed.
  - (c) **Availability** means that authorised users should be able to access the data if they need it for authorised purposes only.
- 12.4 Security procedures include:
- (a) **Secure lockable desks and cupboards.** Desks and cupboards should be kept locked if they hold confidential information of any kind. (Personal information is always considered confidential.)
  - (b) **Methods of disposal.** Paper documents should be shredded. Digital storage devices should be physically destroyed when they are no longer required.
  - (c) **Equipment.** Data users must ensure that individual monitors do not show confidential information to passers-by and that they log off from their PC when it is left unattended and in an area that can be accessed by non-authorised users.



### **13. DISCLOSURE AND SHARING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

13.1 We may share personal data we hold with any member of our company or organisation.

13.2 We may also disclose personal data we hold to third parties:

- (a) In the event that we sell or buy any business or assets, in which case we may disclose personal data we hold to the prospective seller or buyer of such business or assets.
- (b) If we or substantially all of our assets are acquired by a third party, in which case personal data we hold will be one of the transferred assets.

13.3 If we are under a duty to disclose or share a data subject's personal data in order to comply with any legal obligation, or in order to enforce or apply any contract with the data subject or other agreements; or to protect our rights, property, or safety of our employees, customers, or others. This includes exchanging information with other companies and organisations for the purposes of fraud protection and credit risk reduction.

13.4 We may also share personal data we hold with selected third parties for the purposes set out in the Schedule 1.

#### **14. DEALING WITH SUBJECT ACCESS REQUESTS**

- 14.1 Data subjects may make a formal request for information we hold about them. This must be made in writing. Employees who receive a written request should forward it to their line manager, Data Protection Compliance Manager, or business principal immediately.
- 14.2 When receiving telephone enquiries, we will only disclose personal data we hold on our systems if the following conditions are met:
- (a) We will confirm to our satisfaction the caller's identity to make sure that information is only given to a person who is entitled to it.
  - (b) We will suggest that the caller put their request in writing if we are not sure about the caller's identity and where their identity cannot be checked.
- 14.3 Employees (where applicable) will refer a request to their line manager, Data Protection Compliance Manager, or business principal, for assistance in difficult situations. Employees should not be bullied into disclosing personal information.

#### **15. CHANGES TO THIS POLICY**

We reserve the right to change this policy at any time. Where appropriate, we will notify data subjects of those changes by mail or email.