the dpia

GLOBAL PRIVACY NEWS
FROM THE DPO CENTRE

The DPIA is an assessment of the impact of the most significant and important-to-know data protection issues from around the globe. It's not the full story, just a quick 3-minute read, collated and condensed to keep you updated with the latest news in our ever-evolving industry.

GDPR compliance: Why low-risk data processing can still create risk

GDPR compliance gaps don't always stem from obviously high-risk processing activities. Sometimes they arise from routine systems and processes that are rarely challenged or reassessed. Activities such as email, internal collaboration tools, customer interactions, and data aggregation can create elevated risks depending on how information is accessed, combined, retained, and used in practice.

In our latest blog, we explore how assumptions around 'low-risk' processing can lead to overlooked compliance gaps and explain how organisations can take a more effective risk-based approach to identifying and managing hidden GDPR risks.

Read our blog

UNITED KINGDOM

ICO shares guidance on AI-driven data breach risks

On 14 May 2026, the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) published 5 steps to help organisations protect themselves against AI-powered cyber threats.

The ICO recommends organisations:

- Understand potential threats, highlighting seven key AI-powered cyber risks
- Layer defences through technical controls, patching, and secure configurations

- Restrict access points using measures such as multi-factor authentication (MFA), strong password policies, and least privilege access
- Improve detection, monitoring, and incident response processes
- Implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect personal data

Read the ICO guidance

NCSC publishes guidance on adopting agentic AI systems

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has warned that increased autonomy and complexity of agentic AI systems may introduce additional risks, including broader system access, unpredictable behaviour, and reduced visibility over decision-making processes.

The guidance sets out best practices for how organisations govern autonomous AI systems in practice, including:

- Limiting access privileges
- Maintaining human oversight
- Implementing continuous monitoring
- Aligning deployments with existing security and risk management frameworks

Read the NCSC guidance

EUROPEAN UNION

European Commission publishes draft guidance on high-risk AI systems

Published on 19 May 2026, the guidance aims to help providers, deployers, and competent market surveillance authorities determine whether an AI system should be classified as high-risk under the EU AI Act. It explains how key provisions of the Act should be interpreted in practice and contains use cases to demonstrate how classification decisions may apply across different sectors.

The Commission invites AI stakeholders, including public authorities and research institutions, to provide their feedback on the draft guidelines by 23 June 2026.

Read our article for advice from our AI Sector Lead on what organisations should do next.

CNIL reports record data breach notifications in 2025

The French data protection authority (CNIL) has reported a record 6,167 data breach notifications in its 2025 annual report, with hacking responsible for around half of all reported incidents.

The findings reflect the continued growth in cyber-related breaches and increasing pressure on organisations to strengthen technical and organisational security measures. CNIL noted that ransomware, credential theft, and phishing remain significant causes of compromise.

The report highlights the importance of maintaining effective security controls, incident response processes, and staff awareness measures to reduce the risk of breaches.

Read the CNIL annual report

Dutch DPA fines Yango €100 million over unlawful transfers to Russia

The Dutch data protection authority, Autoriteit Persoonsgevens (AP), has fined taxi app operator Yango €100 million for unlawfully transferring personal data from the EU to Russia. An investigation found that Yango transferred personal data without ensuring an equivalent level of protection, relying on incorrect Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) and failing to demonstrate effective mitigations for risks identified through its Transfer Impact Assessment (TIA).

The decision reinforces growing regulatory scrutiny of international data transfers and reminds organisations to assess whether transfer mechanisms and supplementary safeguards remain effective in practice.

Watch our webinar on the legal requirements for cross-border data transfers.

CANADA & UNITED STATES

Gartner reports sharp rise in US privacy enforcement fines

The research firm estimates that US states issued $3.425 billion in privacy-related fines during 2025, exceeding the total value of fines issued over the previous five years combined. The trend is expected to accelerate through 2028 as state privacy laws continue to expand and mature.

According to Gartner, most enforcement actions relate to shortcomings in privacy user experience, including issues linked to subject rights, consent mechanisms, and privacy notices. With regulators placing increasing focus on automated decision-making technologies and AI governance, the findings highlight the importance of ensuring privacy controls remain clear, accessible, and appropriately updated as AI adoption evolves.

Read our blog on updating privacy notices for AI

Canadian investigation highlights risks of unauthorised access breaches

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC) has highlighted more than 42,000 individual privacy breaches at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) since 2020, with affected individuals experiencing financial loss and other significant impacts.

The report noted that many incidents involved bad actors gaining unauthorised access to personal information. The findings highlight the growing risks posed by phishing, credential theft, and social engineering attacks, particularly as threat actors increasingly use AI to scale and automate attacks.

Read our blog to learn how to defend your organisation.

INTERNATIONAL

China publishes ethics and safety guidelines for AI applications

On 19 May 2026, China's National Cybersecurity Standardization Technical Committee (TC260) published the Ethics-Safety Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence Applications 1.0.

The guidelines establish nine core principles for the development and deployment of AI applications, alongside practical requirements for developers relating to areas such as transparency, accountability, and incident traceability.

Read the guidelines

We are recruiting!

To support our ongoing requirement to continuously grow our remarkable and extraordinary **#ONETEAM**, we are seeking candidates for the following positions:

- **Data Protection Officers (The Netherlands)**
- **Data Protection Officers (Poland)**
- **Data Protection Officers - Life Sciences (United Kingdom)**
- **Data Protection Coordinator - Life Sciences (Poland)**
- **Data Protection Officers - Life Sciences (Poland)**
- **Senior Commercial Executive - Life Sciences (United Kingdom)**
- **Senior HR Advisor - maternity cover (United Kingdom)**

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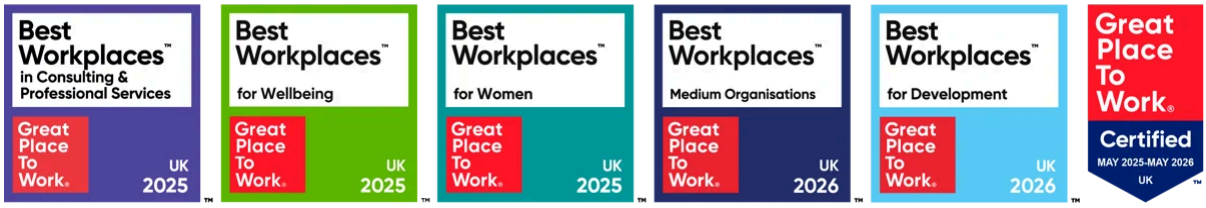

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