



GLOBAL PRIVACY NEWS
FROM THE DPO CENTRE



The DPOIA 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.

EU AI Act compliance part 2: Understanding 'high-risk' activities

The second instalment of our EU AI Act blog series explores the regulation's risk-based approach to the classification of artificial intelligence systems. We cover what AI systems are banned, what is considered 'high-risk' activity, and what systems are exempt.

Find out what this means for your organisation.

[Read the blog](#)

CANADA & UNITED STATES

US Senators introduce Genomic Data Protection Act

On 5 March 2025, US Senators introduced the federal Genomic Data Protection Act (GDPA), aiming to regulate the collection, use, and sharing of genomic data by direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies.

Key provisions include:

- Consumer rights, allowing consumers to access and delete their data
- Notice requirements, mandating companies inform consumers if the organisation is acquired, or if their data is sold
- Excludes health care professionals who use genomic data for diagnosis or treatment
- Violations will be deemed as deceptive or unfair trade practices under the Federal Trade Commission Act

Unlike similar state laws, the GDPA will also apply to companies that purchase data from direct-to-consumer genomic testing companies for secondary use.

[Read the Bill](#)

Privacy experts warn 23andMe users to delete data

Data protection experts have raised privacy concerns after the genetic testing company, 23andMe, recently filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the US. The company, which suffered a major data breach in October 2023 affecting 6.9 million users, insists it will continue operations while seeking a buyer.

However, privacy advocates warn that users' genetic and biological data could be sold to third parties without prior consent. Experts urge customers to delete their data, request the destruction of DNA samples, and revoke all research permissions. The situation highlights ongoing risks in the genetic testing industry, where sensitive data security remains a critical issue.

Lawrence Carter, Life Sciences Sector Lead and Data Protection Officer at The DPO Centre, said, *'Genetic data is considered special category data under the GDPR and can only be processed if there is a valid condition under Article 9. If an organisation uses explicit consent to process genetic data and the consent is withdrawn, they must check if another Article 9 condition applies. If not, they must delete the data. Some jurisdictions have specific laws about how long genetic data and biological samples must be retained.'*

[Read more on 23andMe](#)

CAI guidance provides considerations for AI in recruitment

On 17 March 2024, the Quebec Commission on Access to Information (CAI) published best practice [guidance for processing personal data during staff recruitment](#). The guidance highlights important considerations for organisations using AI in the hiring process:

- Be transparent with candidates about how AI systems are used in the recruitment process
- Ensure staff are adequately trained and familiar with its limitations
- Conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) before using AI systems
- Offer the right to request a review when AI systems have made automated decisions without human intervention
- Avoid emotional or psychological state recognition software, which are usually disproportionate to the employer's needs

Watch our latest webinar, [SMART HIRING OR BACKFIRING: Employing AI in recruitment](#), where our DPO and AI sector lead and industry experts explore the technological and ethical implications of using AI in recruitment. Learn about the benefits and risks of AI in hiring and how to stay compliant with data protection laws.

WATCH ON DEMAND



Privacy Puzzle

GLOBAL WEBINAR SERIES

18 MAR 2025

**SMART HIRING OR BACKFIRING:
Employing AI in recruitment**

UNITED KINGDOM

NCSC publishes guidance on privileged access workstations

On 25 March 2025, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) published guidance for privileged access workstations (PAWs). Used to perform sensitive administrative tasks, PAWs are highly restricted devices designed to protect high-risk systems from cyber threats.

The guidance provides organisations with a structured approach to implementing PAWs, outlining practical considerations. It includes eight principles:

- Establishing a PAW strategy
- Designing a PAW solution to be usable and secure
- Establishing a foundation of trust
- Scaling the solution
- Reducing the attack surface
- Isolating high-risk activity from PAWs
- Implementing protective monitoring
- Controlling data through the PAW solution

[Read the NCSC's guidance on PAWs](#)

EUROPEAN UNION

EC proposes extension to UK adequacy decision

On 18 March 2025, the European Commission proposed a six-month extension to the UK adequacy decision, ensuring stable data transfers while the UK finalises its Data (Use and Access) Bill. Originally set to expire on 27 June 2025, the decision could be extended until 27 December 2025 if approved by the European Data Protection Board (EDPB). This avoids potential disruptions for businesses relying on free data flow between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Once the UK's legislative process concludes, the Commission will assess whether the UK continues to provide an adequate level of protection for personal data.

[Learn more about the DUA Bill](#)

noyb files second privacy complaint against OpenAI

On 20 March 2025, Austrian privacy group, *noyb* (None of Your Business), filed a second complaint against OpenAI over GDPR violations. The case involves ChatGPT falsely identifying a Norwegian man, Arve Hjalmar Holmen, as a child murderer, while also including accurate personal details.

It is not the first time the site has produced factually inaccurate stories, known as hallucinations. Following *noyb*'s first complaint in 2024, OpenAI added a disclaimer to the site but claimed it could only block - not correct - misinformation. *noyb* argues this breaches the GDPR principle of Accuracy, posing a serious risk to individuals.

[Learn more about *noyb*'s complaint](#)



INTERNATIONAL

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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 Privacy Officers (Canada)**
- **Data Protection Officers (United Kingdom/ The Netherlands)**
- **Data Protection Officers - Life Sciences (United Kingdom/Europe/Canada)**
- **Data Protection Support Officers (United Kingdom)**

If you are looking for a new and exciting challenge, [apply today!](#)

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