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# Data protection A Quick Guide

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires businesses to comply with certain principles to safeguard the use and transmission of personal information.

Under the Act, businesses must register with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and inform the ICO about how they process personal information.



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Certain businesses are exempt from this, but almost all businesses with a “contact us” facility on their website will need to register, as will any business that collates personal or sensitive data about individuals.

Failure to comply with the Act can have a detrimental impact on the reputation of a business, and its future viability, if enforcement action is taken. Failure to notify the ICO when required to do so is a criminal offence.

Other associated considerations for businesses include compliance with the Consumer Protection (Distance Selling Regulations) and Unfair Trading Regulations, online privacy and protection of intellectual property rights.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

We can advise on all aspects of the Data Protection Act, including the process of registration with the ICO. We can also advise on other relevant legislation and regulations.



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This guide was correct at the time of publication (January 2016) and gives general information only. You should not rely on it as legal advice. We do not accept liability to anyone who does rely on its contents.

