



Protecting Personal Data Privacy in University Administration

Note: The contents herein are for general reference only. It does not provide an exhaustive guide to the application of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (“the Ordinance”). For a complete and definitive statement of law, direct reference should be made to the Ordinance itself. The Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (“the Commissioner”) makes no express or implied warranties of accuracy or fitness for a particular purpose or use with respect to the above information. The contents herein will not affect the exercise of the functions and power conferred to the Commissioner under the Ordinance.

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Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance

Legislative Background

- **Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance** came into effect on **20 December 1996**, based on internationally accepted data protection principles.

Amendment of the Ordinance

- **Gazette published on 6 July 2012**
- **All amendments came into force**



Objectives of the Ordinance

- **Protecting the privacy right of a “data subject” in respect of “personal data”, but general privacy issues are not protected.**

- **“Data Subject”**

A data subject refers to the living individual who is the subject of the “personal data” concerned.



Definitions under the Ordinance

“Personal Data” should satisfy three conditions:

- (1) relating directly or indirectly to a living individual;**
- (2) from which it is practicable for the identity of the individual to be directly or indirectly ascertained; and**
- (3) in a form in which “access to” or “processing of” the data is practicable.**



Six Data Protection Principles (DPPs)



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保障資料原則 Data Protection Principles

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1

收集目的及方式 Collection Purpose & Means



資料使用者須以合法和公平的方式，收集他人的個人資料，其目的應直接與其職能或活動有關。

須以切實可行的方法告知資料當事人收集其個人資料的目的，以及資料可能會被轉移給哪類人士。

收集的資料是有實際需要的，而不超乎需要。

Personal data must be collected in a lawful and fair way, for a purpose directly related to a function/activity of the data user.

All practicable steps shall be taken to notify the data subjects of the purpose of data collection, and the classes of persons to whom the data may be transferred.

Data collected should be necessary but not excessive.

2

準確性儲存及保留 Accuracy & Retention



資料使用者須確保持有的個人資料準確無誤，資料的保留時間不應超過達致原來目的的實際所需。

Personal data is accurate and is not kept for a period longer than is necessary to fulfill the purpose for which it is used.

3

使用 Use



個人資料只限用於收集時達明的目的或直接或間接的目的，除非得到資料當事人自願和明確的同意。

Personal data is used for the purpose for which the data is collected or for a directly related purpose, unless voluntary and explicit consent is obtained from the data subject.

4

保安措施 Security



資料使用者須採取切實可行的步驟，保障個人資料不會未經授權或意外地被查閱、處理、刪除、喪失或使用。

A data user needs to take practical steps to safeguard personal data from unauthorised or accidental access, processing, erasure, loss or use.

5

透明度 Openness



資料使用者須公開其處理個人資料的政策和行事方式，交代其持有的個人資料類別和用途。

A data user must make known to the public its personal data policies and practices, types of personal data it holds and how the data is used.

6

查閱及更正 Data Access & Correction



資料當事人有權要求查閱其個人資料；若發現有關個人資料不準確，有權要求更正。

A data subject must be given access to his personal data and to make corrections where the data is inaccurate.

Cross-office Use of Personal Data

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Cross-office Use of Personal Data

“Data User”

Any person (including private and public sector organisations and government departments) that controls the collection, holding, processing or use of “personal data”

- **Section 65 provides that a data user shall be responsible for acts and practices of employees and agents, e.g. part-time / contract employees, companies employed or retained by the employer.**



Cross-office Use of Personal Data

Relevant requirements under DPP1(3)

- Inform the data subject of the purposes of data collection immediately or in advance.

Relevant requirements under DPP3

- Personal data shall not, without the prescribed consent of the data subject, be used for a **new purpose**.
- **New purpose** means any purpose other than the purposes for which the data was collected or directly related purposes.



Cross-office Use of Personal Data

- Controlling access to personal data and limiting the disclosure of personal data on a **need-to-know basis**
- **Reasonable expectation** of data subjects



Cross-office Use of Personal Data

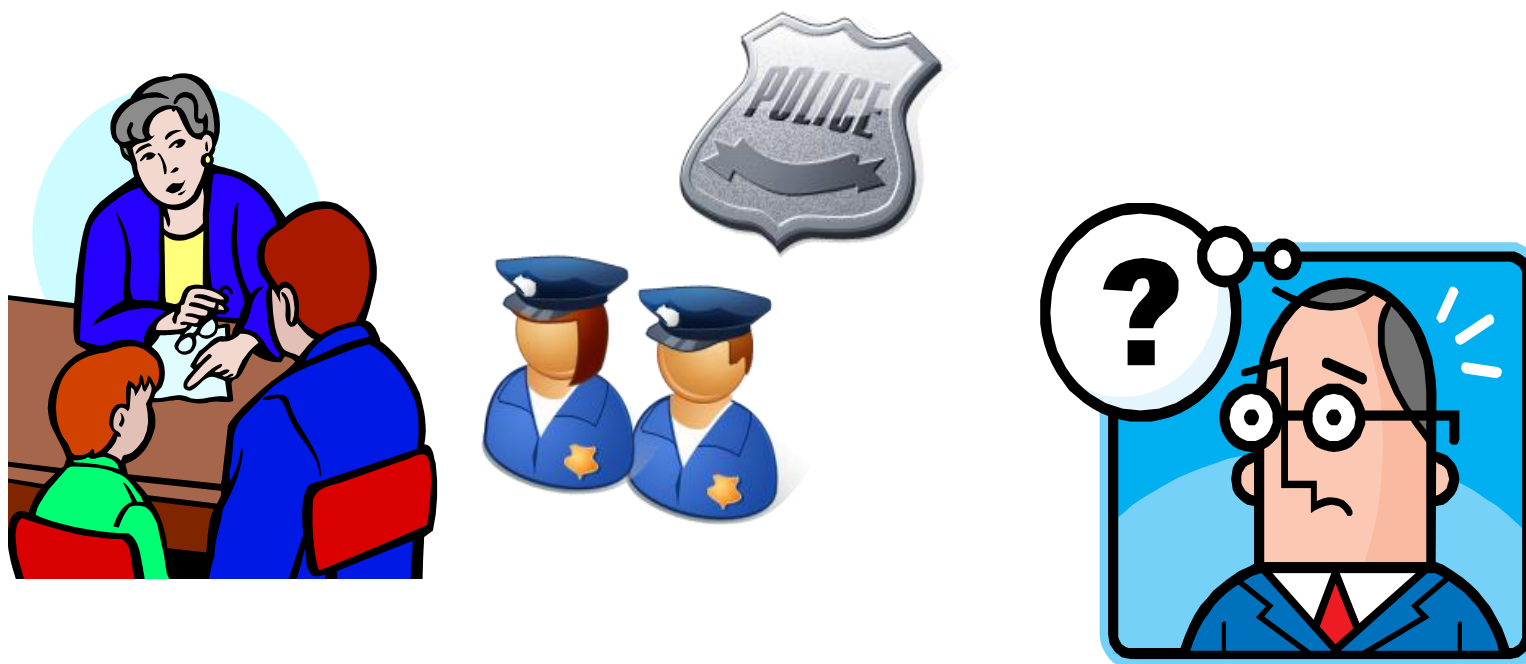
Relevant exemptions

- **Section 59: Health**
- **Section 60B: Legal proceedings etc.**
- **Section 62: Statistics and research**
- **Section 63C: Emergency situations**



Cross-office Use of Personal Data

Providing personal data for the authorities?



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Fundraising and Alumni Affairs



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Fundraising and Alumni Affairs

New regulatory regime of direct marketing

- **Part VIA of the Ordinance: 35A to 35M**
- **More stringent regulation and higher penalties**
- **「Opt-out Mechanism」 unchanged**



Fundraising and Alumni Affairs



“Direct Marketing” is defined to mean:

- 1) the offering, or advertising of the availability, of goods, facilities or services; or the solicitation of donations or contributions for charitable, cultural, philanthropic, recreational, political or other purposes, through
- 2) sending information or goods, addressed to specific persons by name, by mail, fax, electronic mail or other means of communication; or making telephone calls to specific persons.



Fundraising and Alumni Affairs

Direct marketing does not include unsolicited electronic messages sent to:



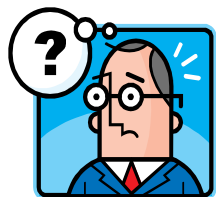
Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance



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Is it direct marketing?



Introducing a donation programme face-to-face



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Is it direct marketing?



**Introducing a fundraising programme
exclusively for corporations/organisations**

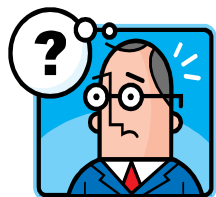


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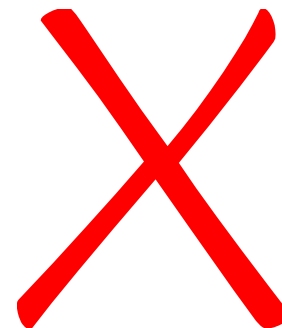
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Is it direct marketing?



Notification of membership renewal

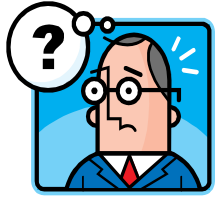


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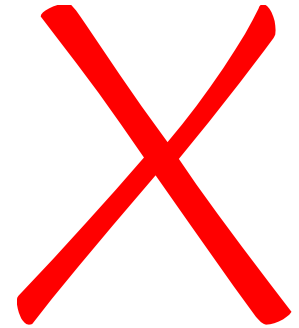
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Is it direct marketing?



Invitation to a reunion

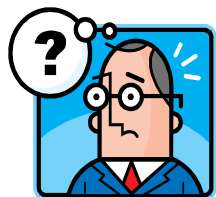


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Is it direct marketing?



Sending a newsletter



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Relevant requirements under DPP1(1)

- **Only necessary, adequate but not excessive personal data is to be collected by a data user.**
- **Collection of personal data that is necessary for specific purpose (e.g. name and contact data) generally suffices.**
- **Additional personal data for direct marketing purpose is to be provided on a voluntary basis (e.g. education level, marital status).**



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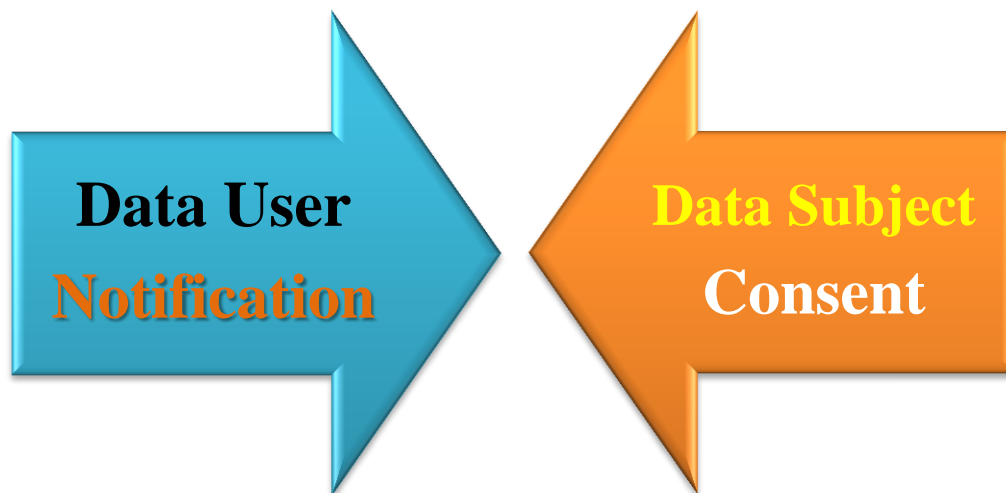
Relevant requirements under DPP1(2)

- **No deceptive or misleading means should be used (e.g. bundled consent in an application form).**



Fundraising and Alumni Affairs

Intends to use personal data or provide personal data to another person for use in direct marketing



Provision of Personal Data

- Provide data subjects with “prescribed information” and response channel through which the data subject may elect to give consent
- Notification should be easily readable and understandable

- Should be given explicitly and voluntarily
- “consent” includes an indication of “no objection”



Fundraising and Alumni Affairs

Prescribed information :

Use of Personal Data in Direct Marketing	Provide Personal Data to another person for Use in Direct Marketing
1. The data user intends to use the personal data of the data subject for direct marketing;	1. The data user intends to provide the personal data of the data subject to another person for use by that person in direct marketing;
2. The data user may not so use the data unless the data user has received the data subject's consent to the intended use;	2. The data user may not so provide the data unless it has received the data subject's written consent to the intended provision;
3. The kinds of personal data to be used;	3. The provision of the data is for gain (if it is to be so provided);
4. The classes of marketing subjects in relation to which the data is to be used;	4. The kinds of personal data to be provided;
5. The response channel	5. The classes of persons to which the data is to be provided;
	6. The classes of marketing subjects in relation to which the data is to be used; and
	7. The response channel



Fundraising and Alumni Affairs

“Consent” includes an indication of no objection.

Example of indicating no objection *generally*:

We intend to use your name, telephone number and address for direct marketing credit card and insurance products/services but we cannot so use your personal data without your consent.

Please sign at the end of this statement to indicate your agreement to such use. Should you find such use of your personal data not acceptable, please indicate your objection before signing by ticking the box below.

☐ The customer named objects to the proposed use of his/her personal data in direct marketing.

Signature of the customer

Name: xxx

Date: yyyy/mm/dd



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- A data user must notify data subject of his opt-out right when using his personal data for the first time in direct marketing, irrespective of whether the personal data is obtained directly from him or from other sources
- A data subject may at any time require a data user to cease to use his/her personal data in direct marketing. A data user must, without charge, cease to use the personal data concerned upon request.
- There is no restriction as to the manner in which the data subject shall exercise his opt-out right.



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Grandfathering arrangement

- 1) The data subject had been explicitly informed of the intended use or use of the data subject's personal data in direct marketing in relation to the class of marketing subjects;**
- 2) the data user had so used any of the data;**
- 3) the data subject had not required the data user to cease to use any of the data; and**
- 4) the data user had not in relation to such use contravened any provision of the Ordinance as in force at the time of the use.**



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- It suffices that the organisation had used any of the data.

For example, if the organisation had used the data subject's mobile phone number in question, not only the mobile phone number be exempted but the use of the other personal data already held by the organisation.

- The grandfathering arrangement also applies to update of personal data held by a data user before the commencement date, but not apply to new data acquired.



Use of Social Networks



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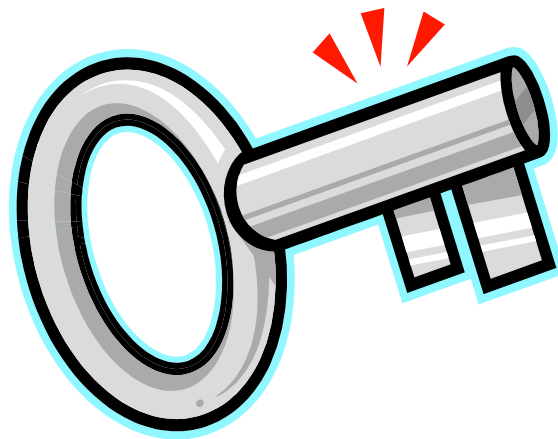
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Use of Social Networks

Key principles

- Appropriateness
- Transparency
- Respect for individual rights
- Protection



Use of Social Networks

Using contact information for direct marketing purposes

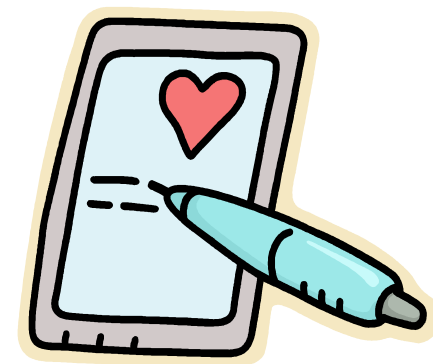
- **Must comply with the direct marketing requirements**
- **When make use of the social connection, keep the members informed and allow them to opt out of participating in such process.**



Use of Social Networks

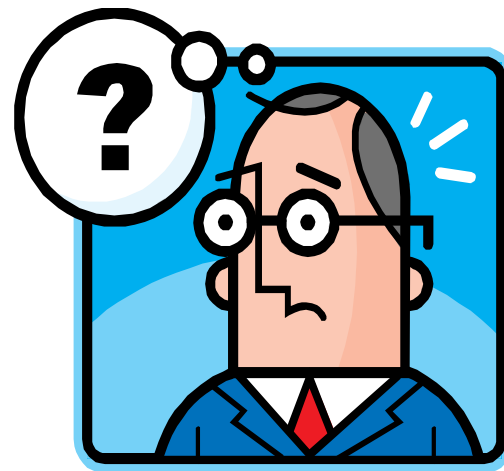
Collection and display of personal data

- **Must supply a corresponding Personal Information Collection Statement (PICS)**
- **Remind members not to disclose in open social networks their personal data.**
- **Make known the practices and policies.**



Use of Social Networks

Showing videos or photos of events?



Outsourcing & Subcontracting



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Outsourcing & Subcontracting

“Data Processor”

a person who processes personal data on behalf of another person and does not process the data for his own purposes, whether within or outside Hong Kong



Outsourcing & Subcontracting

Relevant requirements under DPP2(3)

- The data user must adopt contractual or other means to prevent any personal data transferred to the data processor from being kept longer than necessary.

Relevant requirements under DPP4(2)

- The data user must adopt contractual or other means to prevent unauthorised or accidental access, processing, erasure, loss or use of the data transferred to the data processor for processing.



Outsourcing & Subcontracting

Contractual means

- **Security measures required to be taken**
- **Timely return, destruction or deletion of the personal data**
- **Prohibition against unauthorised use or disclosure**
- **Prohibition against subcontracting or imposing obligations**
- **Immediate reporting of any sign of abnormalities**



Outsourcing & Subcontracting

Contractual means

- **Measures required to be taken to ensure its staff will comply with the obligations**
- **Right to audit**
- **Consequences for violation of contract**



Outsourcing & Subcontracting

Other means

- **Selecting reputable data processors**
- **Robust policies and procedures in place**
- **Exercising the right to audit and inspect**



Six Data Protection Principles (DPPs)



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DPP1 - Purpose and manner of collection

- **Data shall be collected for purposes related to the functions or activities of the data user.**
- **Data collected should be adequate but not excessive.**
- **The means of collection must be lawful and fair.**



DPP1 - Purpose and manner of collection

Inform the data subject of the following immediately or in advance:

- 1) the purposes of data collection;**
- 2) the classes of persons to whom the data may be transferred;**
- 3) whether it is obligatory or voluntary for the data subject to supply the data;**
- 4) where it is obligatory for the data subject to supply the data, the consequences for him if he fails to do so;**
- 5) the name or job title and address to which the data subject may make correction requests of personal data may be made.**

**Personal Information
Collection Statement**



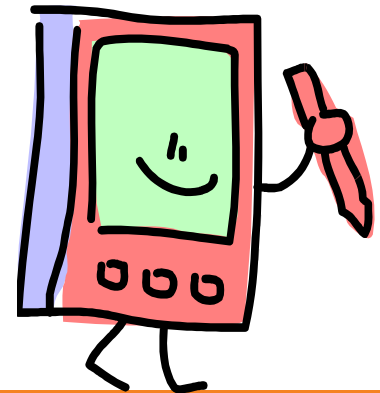
DPP2 - Accuracy and duration of retention

- **Data users shall take practicable steps to ensure the accuracy of personal data held by them.**
- **All practicable steps must be taken to ensure that personal data is not kept longer than is necessary for the fulfilment of the purpose.**
- **If a data user engages a data processor to process personal data on the data user's behalf, the data user must adopt contractual or other means to prevent any personal data transferred to the data processor from being kept longer than is necessary for processing of the data.**



DPP3 – Use of personal data

- **Personal data shall not, without the prescribed consent of the data subject, be used for a new purpose.**
- **A “relevant person” may give the prescribed consent required for the data subject under specified conditions.**



DPP4 – Security of personal data

- **All practicable steps shall be taken to ensure that personal data is protected against unauthorised or accidental access, processing, erasure, loss and use.**
- **Security in the storage, processing and transmission of data**
- **If a data user engages a data processor to process personal data on the data user's behalf, the data user must adopt contractual or other means to prevent unauthorised or accidental access, processing, erasure, loss or use of the data transferred to the data processor for processing.**



DPP5 – Information to be generally available

Data users have to provide:

- 1)policies and practices in relation to personal data;**
- 2)the kind of personal data held; and**
- 3)the main purposes for which personal data is used.**



DPP6 – Access to personal data

A data subject shall be entitled to:

- **request access to his/her personal data;**
- **request correction of his/her personal data.**



Data user may charge a fee for complying with the data access request.



Resources

- **New Guidance on Direct Marketing**
- **Guidance for Data Users on the Collection and Use of Personal Data through the Internet**
- **Information Leaflet: Privacy Implications for Organisational Use of Social Networks**



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