

## Data protection statement

This is a statement of data protection policy adopted by City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (WMDC) on the 22 of January 2002.

We recognise that in order that we can operate and meet our legal obligations we need to collect and use personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998. We also recognise that this personal information must be dealt with properly however it is collected, recorded and used - whether on paper, in a computer, or recorded on other material - and there are safeguards to ensure this is in the Data Protection Act 1998.

We regard the lawful and correct treatment of personal information by Wakefield Council as very important to our successful operation, and recognise the need to maintain confidence between those with whom we deal and the Council. We also recognise the need to ensure that we treat personal information lawfully and correctly.

To this end we fully endorse the Principles of data protection, as shown in the Data Protection Act 1998. Specifically, the Principles require that personal information:

- a) shall be processed fairly and lawfully and, in particular, shall not be processed unless specific conditions are met;
- b) shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes, and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes.
- c) shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which they are processed;
- d) shall be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
- e) shall not be kept any longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes;
- f) shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the Act; and that: appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data;
- g) shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.

Therefore, we will, through appropriate management, and strict application of criteria and controls:

- observe fully conditions regarding the fair collection and use of information;
- meet its legal obligations to specify the purposes for which information is used;
- collect and process appropriate information, and only to the extent that it is needed to fulfill operational needs or to comply with any legal requirements;
- ensure the quality of information used;

- apply strict checks to determine the length of time information is held;
- ensure that the rights of people about whom information is held can be fully exercised under the Act. (These include: the right to be informed that processing is being undertaken: the right of access to one's personal information; the right to prevent processing in certain circumstances; the right to correct rectify, block or erase information which is regarded as wrong information.);
- take appropriate technical and organisational security
- measures to safeguard personal information;
- ensure that personal information is not transferred abroad without suitable safeguards.

In addition, we will ensure that:

- there is someone with specific responsibility for data protection in the organisation. (Currently, the Nominated Person is the Chief Executive);
- everyone managing and handling personal information understands that they are contractually responsible for following good data protection practice;
- everyone managing and handling personal information is appropriately trained to do so;
- everyone managing and handling personal information is appropriately supervised;
- anybody wanting to make enquiries about handling personal information knows what to do;
- queries about handling personal information are promptly and courteously dealt with;
- methods of handling personal information are clearly described;
- a regular review and audit is made of the way personal information is managed;
- methods of handling personal information are regularly assessed and evaluated;
- performance with handling personal information is regularly assessed and evaluated

[For more information download the data protection FAQs](#)