

Schools Data Protection Officer: Update

In December last year we issued some guidance on the requirement, under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), to have a Data Protection Officer (DPO); we also stated that whilst we would continue with the support service for schools and academies which covers Data Protection, we do not have the capacity or resources to take on the more involved role of a school's DPO.

Since December we have received a large number of enquiries about the DPO role from schools and academies including questions on whether we would re-consider and offer a DPO service. Due to this interest and having had the chance to review other external DPO offerings we are now seriously looking into how we would offer such a service, including the need to recruit additional staff, and how much we would need to charge for the service.

If the School's DPO service does turn out to be a viable option for our team we envisage the earliest we would be in a position to offer it would be September 2018. This means that for a few months at least Schools will need to have a DPO solution in place, albeit a temporary one; if this a member of staff or governor we will support them in the meantime.

Part of assessing the viability of this as a traded service will be gauging interest from schools; if your school would be interested in purchasing such a service from us please would you let us know by way of a phone call to 0121 704 6341 or email to lizibird@solihull.gov.uk. Once we have more information on potential service terms and costs we will be in touch.

Meanwhile, please don't worry too much about GDPR. I have very recently read the latest DfE guidance on GDPR and I am happy to report that it mirrors very closely the advice we have provided to schools and the work many of you are doing. Also it is re-assuring to note that the Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham recently said:

Quote: "We want you to feel prepared, equipped and excited about the GDPR. I know many of you do. For those that still feel there is work to be done – and there are many of those too – I want to reassure you that there is no deadline. 25 May is not the end. It is the beginning."

Many thanks,

Lizi Bird, Assistant Records Manager (Schools) and Information Governance Team