

***“We will be members of the EU in 2018 and therefore it would be expected and quite normal for us to opt into the GDPR and then look later at how best we might be able to help British business with data protection while maintaining high levels of protection for members of the public.”***

**KAREN BRADLEY**

**Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport**

The GDPR initiative was adopted in April 2016, four years after EC Vice-President, Commissioner Viviane Reding, published proposals to reform European data protection rules.

By May 2018 all EU member states will be affected. So will every company in every country worldwide, that does business with them,

And, for those who might be pinning their hopes on a GDPR-free, post-Brexit environment, the news isn't good. Irrespective of whether Britain's exit from Europe is "soft" or "hard", the UK Government has already declared an intention to honour the dictates of the new regulation. Post-Brexit, the overwhelming likelihood is that the UK will either be subject to the GDPR, or will enact legislation that is functionally identical.

How prepared are you?

- Have you evaluated your policies and procedures to determine if they need to be updated?
- Have you thought about what changes your systems and data management capabilities might require?
- Do your data management and marketing processes address the obligations created by the new rights granted by GDPR?
- Will your incident response plans, data breach management and reporting procedures be ready for the 2018 deadline?
- Are you in a position to offer appropriate training for those who are involved in processing or the management of personal data?

Even if you answered, "yes" to all five questions, the real hard work of compliance is only just beginning.

And if you answered "no" to any of them, then your problems haven't even started.

To see the detail on Timing, please refer to the PDF and information on this section.

January 2012	EC Vice-President, Commissioner Viviane Reding, published proposals to reform European data protection rules. This included a draft revised Data Protection Regulation.
May 2012	European Parliament committees began an exchange of views on the draft revised Data Protection Regulation.
July 2012	The first European Parliament working document was produced by MEP Jan Philipp Albrecht of the LIBE committee.
Oct-Nov 2012	The European Parliament led an inter-parliamentary hearing with national parliaments.
January 2013	A draft report and mark-up of the proposed regulation, based on earlier working documents, was released by Jan Philipp Albrecht.
March 2013	Opinions on Albrecht's report and revised draft due from all other European Parliament advisory committees.
Autumn 2013	Informal negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. In October the LIBE Committee voted on a compromise text.
March 2014	The EU Parliament ran a plenary vote in first reading of the draft Regulation. and adopted the LIBE Committee's compromise text.
May 2014	The Council met and produced a report. They reached a partial general approach on specific articles of the GDPR and held an orientation debate on the "one stop shop" mechanism.
October 2014	The Council reached a partial general approach on Chapter IV of the GDPR
March 2015	The Council reached a partial general approach on Chapters II, VI and VII.
Spring 2015	The Council continued to work at a technical level.
June 2015	The Council released their general approach. Negotiations between the three institutions are ongoing.
June 2015	Kick off meeting among the three institutions
July 2015	Second meeting among the three institutions
December 2015	The EU GDPR finally agreed.
April 2016	The GDPR formally adopted
5 April 2017	The Article 29 Working Party adopted guidelines on data protection officers, one-stop-shop and the right to data portability.
Sept 2017	Parliament introduced the UK Data Protection Act proposing integration of GDPR with additional clauses and enhancements post Brexit.
25 May 2018	The GDPR will replace the current Directive and will be directly applicable in all Member States without the need for implementing national legislation.

[There will be more dates after May 2018 being added in]