

Hatfield Local History Society

Data Protection Policy (effective 25 May 2018 – revised 8 June 2024)

Introduction

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is an EU Regulation that passed into UK law on 25 May 2018. It affects the ways in which organisations process “personal data”, meaning any information relating to an identifiable person. The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) has powers to fine organisations in breach of the regulation. For full details of the regulation, see the ICO web site (www.ico.org.uk).

Scope

This document describes how Hatfield Local History Society (HLHS) complies with the GDPR.

Personal Data

In order to function, HLHS collects, records and uses the contact details of its members. It also receives personal data from members of the public via contact forms on the HLHS website. The only purposes for which the data is used are:

- communication with members (announcements and reminders)
- administration (membership status, attendance at HLHS events)
- responding to website contact forms (e.g. book purchase requests).

The data held about each member of HLHS comprises:

- Name
- Address
- Home & mobile telephone numbers (optional)
- Email address
- Membership status.

The data held about members of the public who submit a website contact form comprises:

- Name
- Address (optional)
- Email address
- Enquiry information.

Definitions

Personal data

See introduction

Sensitive personal data

Not applicable

Controller

The “controller” under the terms of the GDPR is HLHS. In practise, it is the members of the HLHS committee who collect, manage and control the membership data.

Lawful basis for processing

HLHS’s lawful basis for holding personal data is “Legitimate Interests”.

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Legitimate interests

The GDPR defines “legitimate interests” as applicable where an organisation uses people’s data in ways they would reasonably expect and which have a minimal privacy impact, or where there is a reasonable justification for the processing.

Consent — existing members prior to 25 May 2018

On the basis of “legitimate interests” (above), retrospective opt-ins were not sought from existing members prior to 25 May 2018, but a member can always opt out by not renewing their annual membership (see below).

Consent — new members

Since 25 May 2018, applicants must provide a positive “opt in” for their data to be held. The data is captured via the member-application form on the HLHS website.

Consent – annual membership renewals

HLHS members originally renewed their consent via an “opt in” box on the annual membership renewal form. But this is no longer practicable as many members now renew via Internet bank transfer. Therefore, from December 2024, the annual membership renewal form will remind members of:

- the personal data we hold about them
- how we use that data
- that members can opt out by simply not renewing their membership

The Six Principles of Data Protection

The GDPR requires that personal data shall be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes only
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary
- accurate and up to date
- kept for no longer than is necessary, other than for archiving purposes
- secured from unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage.

Data Processing

Communicating with HLHS members

The HLHS committee communicates with members by post, email or telephone. This is to inform members of forthcoming events and to issue reminders. Individual email addresses are kept invisible by use of “blind copy” or “mail merge”.

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Communicating with members of the public

Each website contact form received (i.e. new-member application, general enquiry or book purchase request) is responded to by post, email or telephone using the contact details provided.

Collecting the data

HLHS collects personal data by the following means:

- new member application forms
- annual membership renewal forms
- event application forms (e.g. coach trips)
- event attendance forms (e.g. attendance at talks)
- contact forms on the HLHS website.

Data storage

Membership data is held in an Excel spreadsheet on a committee member's secure home computer.

Committee members use a variety of computing devices. Mobile devices such as laptops and tablets shall only be used if they have been set up with a login password. For fixed devices (e.g. desk computers in the home), this requirement is optional. Personal data stored on secure home devices need not be additionally encrypted except where emailed.

Data Retention

The membership database contains data on members for the current year. Membership data from previous years may also be retained for archiving purposes. Forms completed by members may also be retained for archiving purposes.

Individuals' Rights

The GDPR includes a number of rights for individuals. Those relevant to HLHS are:

- the right to be informed
- the right of access
- the right to rectification
- the right to erasure.

Privacy Notices

As described under "Consent" above, HLHS members may "opt out" from their contact details being held by simply not renewing their annual membership.

Each of the contact forms on the Society's website includes the following text:

- Please confirm by ticking the box that you permit Hatfield Local History Society to hold your personal data. The data will be used solely for the legitimate interests of the society in order to deal with your enquiry. It will not be shared with any other organisation.

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Subject Access Request (SAR)

Under the GDPR, individuals have the right to know what data an organisation is holding about them. A subject access request (SAR) is simply a written request made by the individual concerned and sent to the relevant member or members of the HLHS committee. The request does not have to be in any particular form. SARs must be processed free of charge and within 30 days.

Children

Only adults may join the HLHS. HLHS does not hold any data about children. Children who attend individual events may only do so if accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian.

Data Breaches

In the event of a data breach, the GDPR introduces a requirement to notify the ICO and the affected individuals. This only applies where the breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals leading, for example, to discrimination, damage to reputation, financial loss and so on.

This is not applicable to the HLHS, which only stores basic contact details.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

The ICO recommends that organisations should conduct a DPIA at the start of each new project where personal data is involved. For HLHS in practise, a DPIA was carried out in order to produce this Data Protection Policy. The results of the DPIA are given in the sections above.

Should HLHS decide to hold additional personal data or use the existing data in additional ways, then a new DPIA would be required.