

Privacy Policies

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1. Privacy Notice for Clients

Data Protection (GDPR) Privacy Notice for Clients

Our Data Protection responsibilities - We take our responsibilities regarding the protection of data very seriously and have processes in place to provide security and confidentiality of data. We use the information you provide primarily for the provision of legal services to you and for related purposes including statutory returns, legal and regulatory compliance, updating and enhancing client records and audit/analysis to help us manage our practice. Our use of that information is subject to your instructions, data protection law and our duty of confidentiality.

Third parties - Please note that our work for you may require us to pass on such information to third parties such as expert witnesses and other professional advisers, including sometimes advisers appointed by another party to your matter. The lawful basis on which we process the information is our performance of the contract to supply you with legal services, so that we may advise you and act effectively in your matter.

We may also give such information to others who perform services for us, to ensure our service is prompt and efficient, such as photocopying and call- answering. If you do not want work to be outsourced in this way, please tell us as soon as possible, so we can consider this with you. In addition, our practice may be audited or checked by our accountants, regulator, and by other organisations for ISO quality purposes. We also use the services of storage companies for the storage of archived files. The Lawful basis of such processing is a legal obligation and legitimate interests. All third parties to whom we supply data are required to maintain confidentiality in relation to that data.

Data transfers abroad - We will not normally send data outside the UK. We may sometimes need to send data to a recipient in a country outside the UK which has been designated as providing adequate data protection, for example a country in the EU or European Economic Area. If we need to send the data to a country outside the UK that has not been so designated, appropriate arrangements will be agreed with the recipient body to protect the data.

Your rights - You have various rights under data protection law regarding your

personal data including a right of access to the personal data that we hold about you. We seek to keep that personal data correct and up to date. Please let us know if you believe the information we hold about you needs to be corrected or updated. If you have any questions regarding Data Protection please refer to Peter Hopkins who is the Partner responsible for Data Protection matters at Mercers. Full details of your rights are set out in the ICO website, www.ICO.gov.uk and complaints about data protection matters can be referred to the ICO.

Retention of files and data – We retain information regarding client matters for periods relevant to their subject matter as required by professional rules and legislation. Generally speaking electronic data in the context of client cases is kept for 15 years but the time periods vary depending on the area of law and facts of the specific case so decisions regarding retention or destruction of files and data will be made on a case by case basis. After expiry of the relevant retention periods, client files and data may be destroyed without further reference to you. If you do not wish your master file to be destroyed in accordance with our standard procedure, you must inform us in writing within two months of conclusion of the matter (if there is any doubt as to the date of conclusion it shall be taken to be the date the final bill is issued by the firm).

Your data protection obligations – If you send us personal data about anyone other than yourself you will ensure you have any appropriate consents and notices in place to enable you to transfer that personal data to us, and so that we may use it for the purposes for which you provide it to us.

Keeping you informed – we may from time to time send you information which we think might be of interest to you (for example about legal developments or our other services). The lawful basis for this is legitimate interests. If you do not wish to receive that information please notify us, preferably in writing.

2. Privacy Notice for Website Users

Mercers is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected and that all data processing is in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations and current Data Protection legislation. This privacy policy explains how we use the information we collect about you and the procedures that we have in place to safeguard your privacy.

1. The information we collect and how we use it

When you make an enquiry, we need to know your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number and a brief outline of the nature of your query. We gather this information to respond to your enquiry. We will also use your information to look at ways in which this website, and our services to our clients, can be improved and for the purpose of administration. We may share your information with our service providers and agents for these purposes.

2. Information gathering

We do not use cookies or other information gathering technologies on our website, save as described in the Cookie Policy set out on our website, which is done on an anonymous basis.

3. How we protect your information

We have put in place various technical security procedures to protect your personal information and keep it secure and confidential. We will not normally send such data outside the UK. We may sometimes send such data to a recipient in a country outside the UK which has been designated as providing adequate data protection for example a country in the EU or European Economic Area. If we need to send the data to a country outside the UK that has not been so designated appropriate arrangements will be agreed with the recipient body to protect the data.

4. Your Consent

By submitting your information you consent to the use of that information as set out in this policy. We reserve the right to amend this policy at any time. If we change our privacy policy we will post the changes on this page, and may place notices on other pages of the website, so that you may be aware of the information we collect and how we use it at all times.

5. How to contact Mercers

We welcome your views about our website and our privacy policy. If you would like to contact us with any queries or comments please contact us via Peter Hopkins who is the Partner responsible for Data Protection matters at Mercers:

Mercers Solicitors

50 New Street

Henley On Thames

Oxon, RG9 2BX

Or telephone on 01491 572138

Or e-mail Peter Hopkins via mail@mercerslaw.co.uk

3. General Privacy Policy

Data Protection (GDPR) General Privacy Notice – where you are not a Client

Our Data Protection responsibilities - We take our responsibilities regarding the protection of data very seriously and have processes in place to provide security and confidentiality of data. We use information you provide for the purposes for which it is provided, and for any mandatory additional purposes including statutory returns, legal and regulatory compliance, updating records and audit/analysis to help us manage our practice. Our use of that information is subject to your directions, data protection law and our duty of confidentiality.

Third parties - We may give information to others who perform services for us, to ensure our service is prompt and efficient, such as photocopying or call-answering. In addition, our practice may be audited or checked by our accountants, regulator, and by other organisations for ISO quality purposes. We also use the services of storage companies for the storage of archived files. The Lawful basis of such

processing is a legal obligation and legitimate interests. All third parties to whom we supply data are required to maintain confidentiality in relation to that data.

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Your rights - You have various rights under data protection law regarding your personal data including a right of access to the personal data that we hold about you. We seek to keep that personal data correct and up to date. Please let us know if you believe the information we hold about you needs to be corrected or updated. If you have any questions regarding Data Protection please refer to Peter Hopkins who is the Partner responsible for Data Protection matters at Mercers. Full details of your rights are set out in the ICO website, www.ICO.gov.uk and complaints about data protection matters can be referred to the ICO.

Retention of files and data – We retain information for periods relevant to their subject matter as required by professional rules and legislation. Generally, electronic data in the context of client cases is held for 15 years, otherwise it is held for 7 years, but time periods vary depending on the area/facts involved, so decisions regarding retention or destruction of data will be made on a case by case basis.

Your data protection obligations – If you send us personal data about anyone other than yourself you will ensure you have any appropriate consents and notices in place to enable you to transfer that personal data to us, and so that we may use it for the purposes for which you provide it to us.

Keeping you informed – we may from time to time send you information which we think might be of interest to you (for example about legal developments or our other services). The lawful basis for this is legitimate interests. If you do not wish to receive that information please notify us, preferably in writing.