

# RENFREWSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD



## SPECIAL CATEGORY DATA POLICY IG9

<b>Title</b>	Special Category Data Policy
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<b>Approved By</b>	Management Team
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<b>Reviewer</b>	As Author
<b>Review Date</b>	As required

### Review History

<b>Review No.</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Release Date</b>
1	Review by Data Protection Officer. Updates to include all processing by RVJB and ERO.	22 September 2022

## **Policy Statement and Additional Safeguards On Processing Special Category Data And Personal Data Relating To Criminal Convictions And Offences**

The Data Protection Act 2018 requires controllers who process special category (i.e. sensitive), or personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences to have an Appropriate Policy Document in place setting out a number of additional safeguards for this data.

As part of Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board's (RVJB), the Assessor and the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire statutory and corporate functions, we process special category data and criminal offence data in accordance with the requirements of Article 9 and 10 of the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 ('DPA 2018').

This document is the Appropriate Policy Document for RVJB and is adopted by the ERO for East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire in relation to his processing.

This Appropriate Policy Document should be read alongside the Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice available on the website <https://www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk/>

RVJB and the ERO are subject to a robust Information Security Policy which outlines technical and organisational measures in place to protect any Special Category Data processed.

### **Special category data**

Special category data is defined at Article 9 GDPR as personal data revealing:

- Racial or ethnic origin;
- Political opinions;
- Religious or philosophical beliefs;
- Trade union membership;
- Genetic data;
- Biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person;
- Data concerning health; or
- Data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation.

### **Criminal offence data**

Article 10 GDPR covers processing in relation to criminal convictions and offences or related security measures. In addition, section 11(2) of the DPA 2018 specifically confirms that this includes personal data relating to the alleged commission of offences or proceedings for an offence committed or alleged to have been committed, including sentencing. This is collectively referred to as 'criminal offence data'.

## **This policy document**

Some of the Schedule 1 conditions for processing special category and criminal offence data require us to have an Appropriate Policy Document ('APD') in place, setting out and explaining our procedures for securing compliance with the principles in Article 5 and policies regarding the retention and erasure of such personal data.

This document explains our processing and satisfies the requirements of Schedule 1, Part 4 of the DPA 2018.

In addition, it provides some further information about our processing of special category and criminal offence data where a policy document isn't a specific requirement. The information supplements our Privacy Notice and Staff Privacy Notice.

## **Conditions for processing special category and criminal offence data**

We process special categories of personal data under the following GDPR Articles:

**i. Article 9(2)(b)** – where processing is necessary for the purposes of performing or exercising obligations or rights which are imposed or conferred by law on RVJB in connection with employment, social security or social protection.

Examples of our processing include staff sickness absences and political activity declarations.

**ii. Article 9(2)(g)** - reasons of substantial public interest.

The Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer is responsible for compiling and maintaining the Electoral Register, which enables eligible voters to vote at the various Elections and Referendums throughout East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.

Our processing of personal data in this context is for the purposes of substantial public interest and is necessary for the carrying out of our role.

Examples of our processing include health or disability information to process applications for proxy votes.

**iii. Article 9(2)(j)** – for archiving purposes in the public interest.

The relevant purpose we rely on is Schedule 1 Part 1 paragraph 4 – archiving.

An example of our processing is the transfers we make to the National Archives as part of our obligations under the Public Records Act 1958.

**iv. Article 9(2)(f)** – for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Examples of our processing include processing relating to any employment tribunal or other litigation.

**v. Article 9(2)(a)** – explicit consent

In circumstances where we seek consent, we make sure that the consent is unambiguous and for one or more specified purposes, is given by an affirmative action and is recorded as the condition for processing.

Examples of our processing include staff health requirements and health information we receive from our customers who require a reasonable adjustment to access our services.

**vi. Article 9(2)(c)** – where processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person.

An example of our processing would be using health information about a member of staff in a medical emergency.

**vii. Article 10** - we process criminal offence data.

Examples of our processing of criminal offence data include pre-employment checks and declarations by an employee in line with contractual obligations.

### **Processing which requires an Appropriate Policy Document**

Almost all of the substantial public interest conditions in Schedule 1 Part 2 of the DPA 2018, plus the condition for processing employment, social security and social protection data, require an APD (see Schedule 1 paragraphs 1 and 5).

This section of the policy is the APD for RVJB. It demonstrates that the processing of special category ('SC') and criminal offence ('CO') data based on these specific Schedule 1 conditions is compliant with the requirements of the GDPR Article 5 principles. In particular, it outlines our retention policies with respect to this data.

### **Description of data processed**

We process the special category data about our employees that is necessary to fulfil our obligations as an employer. This includes information about their health and wellbeing, ethnicity, photographs and their membership of any trade union. Further information about this processing can be found in our staff privacy notice.

Our processing for reasons of substantial public interest relates to the data we receive or obtain in order to fulfil our statutory functions. This may be evidence provided to us as part of an application to vote or information we gather for valuation purposes. Further information about this processing can be found in our privacy notice.

We also maintain a record of our processing activities in accordance with Article 30 of the GDPR.

## **Schedule 1 conditions for processing**

### **Special category data**

We process SC data for the following purposes in Part 1 of Schedule 1:

- Paragraph 1(1) employment, social security and social protection.

We process SC data for the following purposes in Part 2 of Schedule 1. All processing is for the first listed purpose and might also be for others dependent on the context:

- Paragraph 6(1) and (2)(a) statutory, etc. purposes
- Paragraph 8(1) equality of opportunity or treatment
- Paragraph 10(1) preventing or detecting unlawful acts
- Paragraph 11(1) and (2) protecting the public against dishonesty
- Paragraph 12(1) and (2) regulatory requirements relating to unlawful acts and dishonesty
- Paragraph 24(1) and (2) disclosure to elected representatives

## **Criminal offence data**

We process criminal offence data for the following purposes in parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 1

- Paragraph 1 – employment, social security and social protection
- Paragraph 6(2)(a) – statutory, etc. purposes

## **Procedures for ensuring compliance with the principles**

### **Accountability principle**

We have put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to meet the requirements of accountability. These include:

- The appointment of a data protection officer who reports directly to our highest management level.
- Taking a 'data protection by design and default' approach to our activities
- Maintaining documentation of our processing activities
- Adopting and implementing data protection policies and ensuring we have written contracts in place with our data processors
- Implementing appropriate security measures in relation to the personal data we process
- Carrying out data protection impact assessments for our high-risk processing

We regularly review our accountability measures and update or amend them when required.

### **Principle (a): lawfulness, fairness and transparency**

Processing personal data must be lawful, fair and transparent. It is only lawful if and to the extent it is based on law and either the data subject has given their consent for the processing, or the processing meets at least one of the conditions in Schedule 1.

We provide clear and transparent information about why we process personal data including our lawful basis for processing in our privacy notice, staff privacy notice and this policy document.

Our processing for the purposes of employment relates to our obligations as an employer.

### **Principle (b): purpose limitation**

We process personal data for purposes of substantial public interest as explained above when the processing is necessary for us to fulfil our statutory functions, where it is necessary for complying with or assisting another to comply with a regulatory requirement to establish whether an unlawful or improper conduct has occurred, to protect the public from dishonesty, preventing or detecting unlawful acts or for disclosure to elected representatives.

We are authorised by law to process personal data for these purposes. We may process personal data collected for any one of these purposes (whether by us or another controller), for any of the other purposes here, providing the processing is necessary and proportionate to that purpose.

If we are sharing data with another controller, we will document that they are authorised by law to process the data for their purpose.

We will not process personal data for purposes incompatible with the original purpose it was collected for.

**Principle (c): data minimisation**

We collect personal data necessary for the relevant purposes and ensure it is not excessive. The information we process is necessary for and proportionate to our purposes. Where personal data is provided to us or obtained by us, but is not relevant to our stated purposes, we will erase it.

**Principle (d): accuracy**

Where we become aware that personal data is inaccurate or out of date, having regard to the purpose for which it is being processed, we will take every reasonable step to ensure that data is erased or rectified without delay. If we decide not to either erase or rectify it, for example because the lawful basis we rely on to process the data means these rights don't apply, we will document our decision.

**Principle (e): storage limitation**

All special category data processed by us for the purpose of employment or substantial public interest is, unless retained longer for archiving purposes, retained for the periods set out in our retention schedule. We determine the retention period for this data based on our legal obligations and the necessity of its retention for our business needs. Our retention schedule is reviewed regularly and updated when necessary.

**Principle (f): integrity and confidentiality (security)**

Electronic information is processed within our secure network. Hard copy information is processed in line with our security procedures. Our electronic systems and physical storage have appropriate access controls applied.

The systems we use to process personal data allow us to erase or update personal data at any point in time where appropriate.

RVJB and the ERO has an approved Information Security Policy which sets out roles and responsibilities within the organisation in relation to information security. All staff are required to take information security training, and this is refreshed annually. ICT systems have appropriate protective measures in place incorporating defence in depth and the systems are subject to external assessment and validation. There are robust policies and procedures in place to reduce the information security risks arising from use of hard copy documentation.

## **Retention and erasure policies**

We only keep personal information for the minimum amount of time necessary. Sometimes this time period is set out in the law, but in most cases, it is based on business need. We maintain a records retention and disposal schedule which sets out how long we hold different types of information for. You can view this on the RVJB website at: <https://www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk/policies-and-plans>

Ongoing management of our records and information is subject to the provisions of our Records Management Plan, which was developed in terms of the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 and approved by the Keeper of the Records of Scotland. It is available online at: <https://www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk/policies-and-plans>. The Records Management Plan sets out, in much greater detail, the provisions under which RVJB complies with its obligations under public records legislation, data protection and information security and is complementary to this policy statement.

## **APD review date**

This policy will be retained for the duration of our processing and for a minimum of 6 months after processing ceases.

This policy will be reviewed 2-yearly or revised more frequently if necessary.

## **Additional special category processing**

We process special category personal data in other instances where it is not a requirement to keep an appropriate policy document. Our processing of such data respects the rights and interests of the data subjects. We provide clear and transparent information about why we process personal data including our lawful basis for processing in our privacy notice and staff privacy notice.