



**Inform**  
ACCOUNTING

xero

PLATINUM  
PARTNER

# DATA SHARING & SECURITY

T: (0121) 667 3882

E: [www.informaccounting.co.uk](http://www.informaccounting.co.uk)





# What is personal data?

Personal data is any information that can be used to identify a living person, including names, delivery details, IP addresses, or HR data such as payroll details. Most organisations use personal data in their daily operations. An example of this is a UK company that receives customer information from an EU company, such as names and addresses, to provide goods or services.

## Data sharing

How this affects your business will depend on several factors, including the nature of your business and where your customers are located. Data sharing with the European Economic Area (EEA) is one of the key areas to consider. The Government has legislated so that UK firms can continue to lawfully send personal data from the UK to the EEA and 13 other countries that the EU has deemed to provide an adequate level of protection of personal data. They have also announced that the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement provides for the continued free flow of personal data from the EU and EEA to the UK until adequacy decisions are adopted, for no longer than 6 months.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) states that the agreement between the UK and the EU enables businesses and public bodies across all sectors to continue to freely receive data from the EU (and EEA). However, as a sensible precaution, the ICO recommends that businesses work with EU and EEA organisations who transfer personal data to them, to put in place alternative transfer mechanisms to safeguard against any interruption to the free flow of EU to UK personal data.

This means that that businesses and organisations can be confident in the free flow of personal data from 1 January, without having to make any changes to their data protection practices.

[Read the ICO's full statement in response to the UK Government's announcement on the extended period for personal data flows that will allow time to complete the adequacy process here.](#)

## Data protection and GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has been retained in UK law and will continue to be read alongside the Data Protection Act 2018, with technical amendments to ensure it can function in UK law. The Information Commissioner remains the UK's independent supervisory authority on data protection. The UK remains committed to high data protection standards.



**Using personal data in your business or other organisation**

What action you need to take regarding data protection and data flows with the EU/EEA.

**Always talk to your IT provider for professional advice on the integrity and security of your systems.**

### DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this document is for information purposes only. Inform Accounting shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to you or your business caused by action taken by you on the information in this guide.