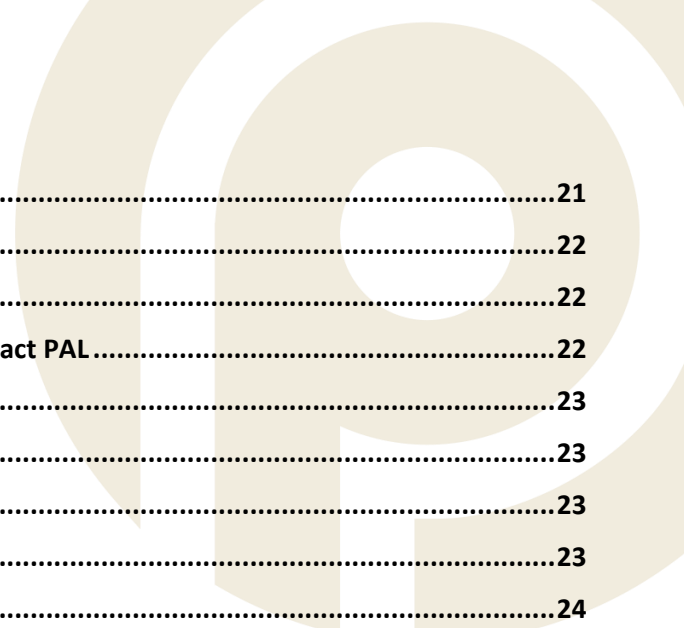




Data Protection and Privacy Policy

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Overview

All our stakeholders should feel confident in Professional Assessment Limited (PAL's) handling of their personal data and how we use such data and be assured that we will only request and process essential data and that we strive to ensure data and information is collected, recorded, and compiled accurately and only used for stated purposes.

All staff involved with the collection, processing and disclosure of personal data will be aware of their duties and responsibilities under this policy.

PAL is committed to a policy of protecting the rights and privacy of individuals, staff, associates, consultants/TAs, and others in accordance with Data Protection Legislation¹. This policy applies to all personal data processed by PAL.

This Policy explains in detail how we collect personal data, the reasons for this collection, the legal basis for processing and how we handle and maintain the security of the personal data we process.

To note we may change this privacy policy without notice. Please check back frequently to see any updates or changes made to this statement.

This Data Protection and Privacy Policy is for Professional Assessment Ltd. **Our ICO registration number is ZA275792.**

Policy Scope

The policy includes processing relating to:

- PAL staff
- PAL Associates and Consultants/TAs
- Individuals external to PAL – for example, an apprentice, when a person applies for a role at PAL, when an organisation provides PAL with data or services to support our data collection and processing activities for our core work

This policy is relevant for anyone who provides or handles data.

The company holds and processes information about company employees, associates, apprentices, and other data subjects for academic, administrative, and commercial purposes. This policy should be read in conjunction with the GDPR policy.

PAL's service level contracts, along with our EPA manual refers to PAL's approach regarding data management and protection and should be read in conjunction with this policy.

It includes information held on computers (including email), paper files, photographs, audio and video recordings and images.

Who is this policy for?

This policy is intended for Employers, Providers, Employer Providers Apprentices, Suppliers, PAL personnel and PAL Associates and Consultants/TAs

This policy is relevant for anyone who provides or handles data.

¹ From 1st January 2021, the law relating to data processing in the UK changed. Any processing of data prior to 1st January 2021 has been undertaken in accordance with EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("the EU GDPR"). From 1st January 2021, the EU GDPR no longer applies to the UK. The UK has retained the EU GDPR under Section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (EUWA). It has been renamed as the UK GDPR and tailored by the Data Protection Act 2018. From 1st January 2021, the UK data protection regime consists of the UK GDPR as incorporated under the EUWA and amended by the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (DPPEC) and the Data protection Act 2018 as enacted in May 2018 and amended by the DPPEC Regulations.

Purpose

All personal data must be handled and dealt with appropriately however it is collected, recorded, and used, and whether it is on paper, in electronic records or recorded in other formats, on other media, or by any other means. This policy outlines the context of data protection for PAL and defines roles and responsibilities and highlights the importance of effective data management protocols and procedures

In conducting our EPA activities, the data we collect and collate from third parties about an individual apprentice serves a legitimate interest, PAL needs the data to perform our assessment activities, to include certification requests. To support certification requests we ask the apprentice to consent to PAL requesting their certificate, we document this consent at our assessment planning.

For PAL personnel the policy advocates the need for accuracy and security in respect of data collection, collation, and storage. For third parties such as providers, employers and apprentices, the policy aims to demonstrate PAL's approach and high importance we place on data and information management, checking of data with third parties and suppliers to ensure accuracy and how we securely store data.

Principal Data Sharing Stakeholders

Where PAL is required to share data for certification purposes, PAL provides ESFA/ DfE with the required information that identifies the individual apprentice, the apprenticeship standard, and the outcome. The information is shared via a secure API.

Where PAL is required to share data in the public interest, with the qualification regulators, PAL will provide this data in the required format and share via the appropriate secure portals.

The ESFA and qualification regulators, in PAL's case the regulator is Ofqual, are obliged to have robust data protection policies and procedures that are fully compliant with UK GDPR regulations.

Definitions

- Data controller – is a legal or natural person, an agency, a public authority, or any other body who, alone or when joined with others as a joint data controller, determines the purposes of any personal data and the means of processing it.
- Data Processor- is a legal or a natural person, agency, public authority, or any other body who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.
- Data controller agents- is any person who processes data within the data controller organisation, for PAL these will include any PAL staff member or associate who processes personal data.
- Data Protection Officer – PAL has a voluntary DPO.
- “Personnel”,² “apprentices” and “other data subjects” may include past, present, and potential members of those groups.
- Data Subject- The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
- “Other data subjects” and “third parties” may include contractors, suppliers, contacts, referees, and friends.
- “Processing” refers to any action involving personal information, including obtaining, viewing, copying, amending, adding, deleting, extracting, storing, disclosing, or destroying information.
- Personal Data Breach- A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to personal data.

² Personnel includes PAL employees, associates and consultants/TAs and advisory group members

- Agents of the Data Controller- PAL personnel who process personal data under the requirements of PAL's policies and procedures

PAL, as data controller, is responsible for, and must be able to demonstrate compliance with these principles. We follow procedures to ensure that all employees, contractors, agents associates, consultants, and other parties who have access to any personal data held by or on behalf of us are fully aware of, and abide by, their duties and responsibilities under data protection legislation.

All PAL staff and commissioned associates and consultants/TAs are required to respect the personal data and privacy of others and must ensure that appropriate protection and security measures are taken against unlawful or unauthorised processing of personal data, and against the accidental loss of, or damage to personal data.

Changes since Brexit

The EU's GDPR has been lifted into a new UK-GDPR that took effect on January 31st, 2020. An adequacy decision for the UK and the Law Enforcement Directive (LED) was adopted on June 28, 2021, by the EU, securing unrestricted flows of personal data between the two blocs until June 2025.

The DPA 2018 continues to set out the framework for data protection law in the UK. It was amended on 01/2021 by regulations under the European Union Withdrawal Act to reflect UK's status outside of the EU.

The main changes to the old regulations are:

- **Transparency- more detailed and informative privacy notices are required**
- **The purpose of, and legal basis for processing data must be explained in clear and simple terms**

The key principles, rights and obligations remain the same. However, there are implications for the rules on transfers of personal data between the UK and the EEA.

The UK GDPR also applies to controllers and processors based outside the UK if their processing activities relate to:

- offering goods or services to individuals in the UK; or
- monitoring the behaviour of individuals taking place in the UK.

There are also implications for UK controllers who have an establishment in the EEA, have customers in the EEA, or monitor individuals in the EEA. The EU GDPR still applies to this processing, but the way you interact with European data protection authorities has changed.

The EU Commission must monitor developments in the UK on an ongoing basis to ensure that the UK continues to provide an equivalent level of data protection. The Commission can amend, suspend, or repeal the decisions if issues cannot be resolved. Also, EU data subjects or an EU data protection authority can initiate a legal challenge to the decisions. The Court of Justice of the European Union would then have to decide whether the UK did provide essentially equivalent protection.

All PAL personnel are aware of the requirements of the UK GDPR. They appreciate the impact of this piece of legislation and the associated updates and of areas of work that could cause potential compliance problems under the GDPR. The Business Operations Director and Director of Audit and Compliance will be responsible for staff training and compliance.

We are committed to ensuring that the principles of data protection that predicate GDPR are embedded into everything we do.

Personal data and special categories of personal data

This policy applies to personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)³; that is, any information relating to an identified or identifiable living person. It will cover information which on its own does not identify someone, but which would identify them if put together with other information.

The UK GDPR extends the definition of personal data to include identification numbers, such as Unique Learner Identifier Numbers (ULIN). Personal data may include an individual's IP address and social media name.

See Appendix One- for further information regarding personal data

This policy also applies to **special categories of personal data**⁴. Special category personal data is data that is particularly sensitive and therefore merits specific protection. The special categories of personal data specifically include data relating to an individual's:

- racial or ethnic group political opinions
- religious or philosophical beliefs
- trade union membership
- genetic data and/or biometric data health
- sexual orientation

What are the conditions for processing?

- (a) Explicit consent.
- (b) Employment, social security, and social protection law.
- (c) Vital interests.
- (d) Not-for-profit bodies.
- (e) Made public by the data subject.
- (f) Legal claims and judicial acts.
- (g) Substantial public interest.
- (h) Health or social care

This policy also applies to criminal offence data⁵ to the highly limited extent such data is processed by PAL. Further information is available in PAL's appropriate policy for handling sensitive information, available on request from PAL's DPO.

All personal data within PAL's control shall be identified as personal data, special category personal data or criminal offence data to ensure that it is handled in compliance with legal requirements and processing does not breach the rights of the individuals to whom it relates.

What Personal Data does PAL Process?

For the purposes of data protection legislation, PAL is a data controller. PAL is required to manage data protection to meet the standards of the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the qualifications regulatory body, the ICO and other relevant agencies.

PAL collects personal data from a variety of sources. This can range from personal data given to us directly when you contact us, personal data we receive to facilitate end-point assessment to personal data used for HR purposes.

We process personal data relating to:

- Employees, including job applicants

³ Article 4 of the UK GDPR

⁴ As defined by Article 9(1) of the UK GDPR

⁵ Article 10 of the UK GDPR

- Associates
- Consultants/TAs
- Suppliers and service providers and Training Providers
- Apprentices (i.e., individuals registered to undertake EPA)
- Employers (i.e., employer representatives who are named as the individual supporting the apprentice at work)
- Providers (individuals who represent the Provider and are PAL's main point of contact with main provider)
- Individuals who make enquiries, complainants, and their representatives (including whistle-blowers)
- Respondents and their responses to consultations and surveys and feedback questionnaires
- Event or webinar attendees
- Other stakeholders (such as individuals in government departments and regulatory agencies)

Examples of Personal Data PAL may process	Examples of Special Category Data PAL may process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Names of individuals ➤ DOB (apprentices/learners) ➤ Unique Learner ID (ULIN apprentices/learners) ➤ UKPRN- Provider identifier ➤ Proof of ID documents ➤ Assessment grades and outcomes ➤ Contact information (for example postal address, telephone number, email address- range of stakeholders to include PAL personnel) ➤ Information in relation to activities, to include enquiries and appeals; complaints; maladministration and malpractice; conflicts of interest and sanctions ➤ Information from consultations and feedback ➤ occupation or job title places of work ➤ Information about an individual's education and qualifications information about an individual's skills and expertise, for the purpose of recruitment, engagement and assessment allocations and assignments ➤ Previous attainment and achievement of English and Maths and other pertinent qualifications and grades ➤ Other information relevant to our HR function ➤ Photographs, visual images, and recordings where presented as contributory evidence for apprenticeship assessment and demonstration of competence ➤ Data such as DSTATS to support audit and compliance work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Physical or health details ➤ racial or ethnic origin ➤ Religious or other beliefs ➤ Political opinions ➤ Sexual life ➤ Trade union membership

Criminal Offence Data

PAL may process personal data relating to the charge or alleged charge of a criminal offence by an individual and relating to legal proceedings, outcomes and sentences or convictions in respect of such offences to the extent that such matters are relevant to PAL's functions. For example, we may process criminal convictions data where it is necessary for us to do so as an employer, or where such data is relevant to the exercise of our role as an EPAO (for example in circumstances where an individual has infringed PAL's intellectual property rights and confidentiality of assessment instruments or where there has been an incident of serious malpractice and fraud).

See Appendix Two – What Information we process and why

Why we Process Personal Data and our Legal Basis for Processing

We process the above information to carry out one or more of the following activities:

- PAL is responsible for making sure that the end-point assessment for apprenticeship standards meets the requirements of the relevant regulatory body (Ofqual) and are congruent with requirements of the ESFA who oversee membership of the APAR register. Apprenticeship programmes to be eligible for funding must comply with the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 and apprenticeship programmes should adhere to a specific set of industry ratified occupational standards and associated Apprenticeship assessment plan, approved by IfATE. The introduction of apprenticeship standards required the awarding of apprenticeship certificates to be undertaken by a different and independent body from the main training provider; PAL as an EPAO processes information to support independent assessment and apprenticeship certification requests.
- For any other awarding organisation 'awarding' function PAL is required to meet regulatory requirements, government funding criteria in relation to the qualification funding and will need where pertinent to comply with the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
- To comply with contractual obligations, PAL in respect of working with providers and in respect of our commercial audit work, issues contracts which outline terms and conditions for delivering our services. Commissioning and tendering activities with prospective suppliers and contractors
- To acquire consent to apply for apprenticeship certificates, from the individual apprentice
- To review and process data and information for reasonable adjustments and special considerations
- Consideration and investigation of complaints, enquires and appeals, maladministration, and/or malpractice and the processing of sanctions in the development, delivery or grading and issuing of results of apprenticeship standards
- Collection and evaluation of feedback, research, and consultations to improve our service offering
- Supporting and managing our employees and contractors
- Carrying out administrative functions (for example HR, finance, or procurement) maintain our own records and accounts
- Providing or obtaining professional advice
- Sending you information that we think might be of interest to you, if you have consented (such as if you sign up to receive our newsletters)
- Complying with any legal and regulatory obligations PAL is subject to
- Providing data to organisations such as Ofqual and the ESFA for the purpose of analytical and statistical research in the public interest

Lawful Consent for Processing Data

The UK GDPR⁶ lists six lawful conditions for processing personal data, and at least one condition must apply for an organisation to be able to collect, collate, process and store data that constitutes personal data.

Six lawful reasons

1. Consent is given to process data
2. Data collection and processing is necessary to perform and undertake business and forms part of the contract between two parties
3. Legal obligation
4. Protection of life
5. The processing of data meets the requirements for being in the public interest
6. Legitimate interests

In most circumstances, PAL's legal basis for processing the personal data for the listed activities are Articles 6(1)(a), (b) and (f). These are:

6 (1)(a) the data subject has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes

6 (1)(b) processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract

6 (1) (f) processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child.

Conditions for processing special category data and criminal offence data

The processing of special categories of personal data is only permitted where special conditions apply. Further conditions apply when processing special categories of personal data. In most circumstances, PAL's legal basis for processing special category personal data is covered by Articles:

Article 9(2)(b) – processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and social security and social protection law in so far as it is authorised by Union or Member State law or a collective agreement pursuant to Member State law providing for appropriate safeguards for the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject. Processing under this condition would include the information we process for recording staff sickness absences, staff qualifications and training and information required to access benefits such as health insurance.

Article 9(2)(f) – for the establishment, exercise, or defense of legal claims

Article 9(2)(g) – processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest...which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and interest of the data subject. In respect of this condition, PAL would process data for statutory and government purposes; to ensure equality of opportunity or treatment; regulatory requirements and support for individuals with a particular disability or medical condition and safeguarding of children and individuals at risk.

PAL is a regulated end-point assessment organisation, delivering end-point assessment for a range of apprenticeship standards, working with many apprentices, employers, and providers. PAL also offers a commercial and independent audit and compliance function.

⁶ See Article 6 of the UK GDPR

As an EPA we are subject to regulation by the qualifications regulator Ofqual, we are also bound by the terms and conditions of the APAR (register), overseen by the ESFA and must comply with the apprentice standards and accompanying assessment plans as published by IfATE.

Examples of data we may process under this condition, include the application and approval of reasonable adjustments in assessments and in specific cases, depending on the circumstances this may extend to the processing of special considerations applications.

Additionally in addressing any disclosures regarding an individual's well-being and safety, from either PAL personnel or others, this condition would be applied in any processing of data and sharing of information with relevant authorities and bodies. Our processing of data in this context is for the purpose of substantial public interest and necessary for the carrying out of our role.

Article 9(2)(a) – the data subject has given explicit consent to the processing of those personal data. Circumstances in which PAL might rely on consent include where we process information about dietary requirements for an event or conference, or where we request or are provided with information to enable us to make reasonable adjustments for individuals regarding how they receive our materials or access our services.

For EPA work we are obliged to seek the consent of the individual apprentice to request an apprenticeship certificate, we request this consent during the assessment planning meeting, and we ask the apprentice to opt in and their decision is recorded on the assessment planning document.

Article 9(2)(c) – processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person. This would include circumstances where we might disclose medical information about an employee in an emergency.

See Appendix Three- for further information on subject consent.

See PAL's Appropriate Policy for Processing Sensitive Information

How do we collect your personal data?

Points of collection include:

- Apprentices and Employers contacting us directly and providing information via epaPRO, the platform PAL uses to plan, schedule and co-ordinate assessments
- Our website(s) contact us form
- Various job vacancy and websites/platforms enquiries forms
- Industry events we attend
- PAL personnel or designated agencies commissioned or utilised by PAL as part of our legitimate interests for business development
- Other training, assessment or funding organisations passing us Apprentice or Employer personal data upon legitimate requests from interested and relevant stakeholders

Data Protection Principles and how we process your Personal Data

The UK GDPR sets out seven key principles:

1. Lawfulness, fairness, and transparency
2. Purpose limitation
3. Data minimisation
4. Accuracy
5. Storage limitation
6. Integrity and confidentiality (security)
7. Accountability

Article 5 of the UK GDPR sets out seven key principles which lie at the heart of the general data protection regime.

Article 5(1) requires that personal data shall be:

“(a) Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals (‘lawfulness, fairness and transparency’)

(b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be incompatible with the initial purposes (‘purpose limitation’)

(c) adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed (‘data minimisation’)

(d) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased, or rectified without delay (‘accuracy’)

(e) kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals (‘storage limitation’)

(f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures (‘integrity and confidentiality’).”

Article 5(2) adds that:

“The controller shall be responsible for, and be able to demonstrate compliance with, paragraph 1 (‘accountability’).”

PAL has a duty to guarantee to data subjects and stakeholders that our data processing is undertaken on a lawful basis and that we are also compliant with other laws such as copyright, industry specific regulations that effect GDPR.

Data subjects must also be assured that our collection and collation of data and information is what they could reasonably expect and that we are clear, open, and honest with ‘who we are as an organisation and the nature of our business; why we need specific information, how we will collect and store information; who we share the data with and for what purpose.

Data Protection

Some of the ways in which PAL protects personal data include:

Setting out responsibilities and accountabilities

PAL includes in all job roles descriptions and within our service level agreements with associates and consultants/TAs and service level contracts with third parties (training providers and employers) the requirements and expectations of safe and responsible data processing in line with the UK GDPR regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018.

PAL also has identified, designated person who is a PAL Board member to act as PAL’s Data Protection Officer. This policy applies to all staff employed by PAL, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf.

Staff who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action. Associates and consultants/TAs who do not comply with this policy will be in serious breach of their service level agreements, as well as this policy and such agreements will be subject to termination on PAL Board approval.

Suppliers and third parties are required to comply with the legislation and regulations, this policy is based on, failure to do so may result in termination of arrangements and or sanctions.

Data Protection Officer

The data protection officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, monitoring our compliance with data protection law, and developing related policies and guidelines where applicable. As part of their reporting function, they will report to the PAL Board of Directors, the governing body of PAL.

The DPO is tasked with monitoring compliance with the UK GDPR and other data protection laws, our data protection and GDPR policies, awareness raising and training and self-evaluation (audits) as well as recording and reporting any data breaches. In the absence of PAL's MD, the DPO also acts as the point of contact for the ICO and will support the MD in any communications with the ICO and other regulatory communications.

PAL's DPO is the Director of Audit and Compliance. The DPO can be contacted by individuals whose data PAL processes.

PAL Board

The PAL Board of Directors are responsible for implementing good data protection practices and procedures within PAL in compliance with the Data Protection Principles. The Business Operations Director on behalf of the Board is responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of data processing and data storage and IT and associated security systems.

PAL Personnel Responsibilities

All personnel shall:

- Ensure that all personal information which they provide to the company in connection with their employment is accurate and up to date
- Inform the company of any changes to information, for example, changes of address
- Inform the company of any errors or, where appropriate, follow procedures for up-dating information
- Respond to information requests, such as a DVLA check in a timely manner

The company will not be held responsible for errors of which it has not been informed.

When personnel acting as data agents hold or process information about apprentices, employers, providers, colleagues, or other data subjects (for example, apprentices' assessment evidence such as projects, references, or details of personal circumstances), they should comply with the following:

Personnel shall ensure that:

- All personal information is kept securely
- Personal information is not disclosed either orally or in writing, accidentally or otherwise to any unauthorised third party.

Unauthorised disclosure, which includes unintentional disclosure, may be a disciplinary matter and in certain circumstances could constitute gross misconduct.

PAL's assessment and administration personnel will advise stakeholders what information is being held; why it is being held and how the information will be used and will request consent for such data usage, such information may be disseminated directly, in response to questions, or by signposting stakeholders to relevant policies and notices

PAL provides its personnel with resources and further guidance and documents to support effective and secure data processing.

Providers acting on behalf of employers are responsible for the data and information they provide PAL, regarding apprenticeship and employer details.

Training

All personnel are provided with data protection instruction as part of their induction process and the importance of protecting and safeguarding data is made throughout contracts, service level agreements, confidentiality agreements, conflict of interest declarations and associated policies.

Data protection will also form part of continuing professional development, where changes to legislation, updates will be provided typically via e-learning, PAL's own CPD resources and meetings.

All personnel including associates and consultants can access our GDPR and Cybersecurity training resources, and PAL's Directors and Managers reserve the right to request personnel attend refresher training at anytime

PAL Directors have completed training in cyber security and advanced GDPR.

Roles and Functions

PAL personnel only have access to the personal data they need to carry out their duties and each data agent has a line manager they can report to seek clarification or advice regarding data processing. All staff have access to an internal GDPR policy, and guide which provides guidance and examples to support their understanding and application of the GDPR principles, basis for data processing and data subject rights.

IT requirements and associated security arrangements are overseen by the Business Operations Director on behalf of the PAL Board. Under the guidance of the Director of Audit and Compliance, PAL carries out a self-evaluation on a bi-annual basis that reviews our compliance to relevant regulatory requirements. **The DPO is also responsible for administering and monitoring SARs and implementing and overseeing data breach reporting.**

The PAL Board, as part of PAL's business continuity arrangements and risk management, undertake monthly risk reviews, that consider all aspects of business and the integrity, probity and suitability of resources, provisions and policies and procedures.

All personnel are required to sign confidentiality agreements, which include the requirement to safeguard personal data and contracts and service level agreements and contracts assimilate such requirements.

Data Protection by Design & Default

We will put measures in place to show that we have integrated data protection into all our data processing activities, including:

- Voluntary appointment of a DPO, suitably senior within the organisation, as a director and therefore able to directly influence policy development and operational practice in conjunction with PAL Board colleagues
- Only processing personal data that is necessary for each specific purpose of processing, and always in line with the data protection principles set out in relevant data protection law
- DPO oversees the risk register and as such can review PAL's data management capacity, capability and compliance and alert PAL Board to any risks
- Integrating data protection into this policy and related policies and supporting documentation such as the EPA Manual
- Data policy and complaints policy detailing how to make an enquiry or complaint in respect of data processing
- Ensuring PAL personnel have access to training and information on data protection law, this policy, any related policies, and any other data protection matters

- DPO has ownership of the data breach reporting and oversight of all governance reporting activities and as such can identify and monitor trends and practices that may give rise to data management improvements or concerns
- PAL Board collective responsibility as data controller and contingencies for cover for regulatory reporting
- Data processing, data management, data accuracy included in self-evaluation activities

Sharing your Personal Data

We will not disclose personal data to any third party unless we have a lawful basis for doing so. Confidentiality will be respected, where appropriate.

Where we share personal data with third parties, this is to enable us to comply with regulatory requirements, and or legal obligations, meet legitimate interests and deliver a service that meets our stakeholders needs and expectations.

We share personal data with trusted third parties categorised under five headings: Assessing, Consultancy, Funding, Certification, and Internal Business Systems. The entries are designed to indicate the work function each third party is associated with:

- Assessing for the provision of assessment materials, reports, and assessment outcomes accessible to Apprentices, Training Providers, to include Employer Providers and Employers via our assessment scheduling platform and email
- Consultancy for the provision of audit and compliance services
- Funding for the governmental funding organisations we receive funding from directly or via employers and /or providers
- Assessment outcomes, grades, results data- Ofqual for research and analysis
- Apprentice certificate via the ESFA
- Internal Business Systems to store and facilitate all communication, assessment reporting, and for the management and monitoring and the running of our business

Without the use of these third-party services, we would not be able to operate effectively. The policy we apply to those organisations to keep your data safe and protect your privacy:

- We provide only the information they need to perform their specific services
- They may only use your data for the exact purposes we specify in our contract/agreement with them
- We work closely with them to ensure that your privacy is respected and always protected
- If we stop using their services, any of your data held by them will either be deleted or rendered anonymous.

We may, from time to time, move supplier. If this happens, your personal data will, where relevant, will be transferred to the new data processor in alignment with the policy mentioned above. If you require further specific information around our third parties data processors, please contact us using the information below, specifying the exact nature of the information you need to email: info@professionalassessment.co.uk and mark for the attention of the DPO.

Third parties such as Ofqual and ESFA have data privacy notices and policies that you can access via their websites.

PAL will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies where we are legally required to do so, including for:

- The prevention or detection of crime and/or fraud
- The apprehension or prosecution of offenders
- The assessment or collection of tax owed to HMRC
- In connection with legal proceedings
- Where the disclosure is required to satisfy our safeguarding obligations
- Research and statistical purposes, if personal data is sufficiently anonymised, or consent has been provided

We may also share personal data with emergency services and local authorities to help them to respond to an emergency that affects PAL personnel, and any third parties PAL representatives were engaged with at the time of the emergency.

We expect PAL personnel and those of our providers, and employers and apprentices to respect the confidentiality of information about individuals. Whilst we will support PAL personnel in taking decisions about information sharing in accordance with their professional judgement PAL may take disciplinary or legal action against those who wilfully misuse personal data for unauthorised purposes.

Misuse of Personal Information

It is an offence for a person, knowingly or recklessly, without the consent of PAL to:

- obtain or disclose personal data or the information contained in personal data, or
- procure the disclosure to another person of the information contained in personal data

Unless the disclosure:

- was necessary to prevent or detect crime; or
- was required or authorised by law

PAL will act against anyone found to be supplying information to a third party or using information for their own purposes without the consent of PAL or a reasonable belief that they were working in accordance with the wishes of PAL. Such offences are criminal offences.

Provider, Employer and Apprentices Responsibilities' (clients/customers)

All third parties/customers shall:

- Ensure that all personal information which they provide to the assessment company is accurate and up-to date. **Where the Apprentice, employer or training provider provide inaccurate data and because of this, there is a need to re-certificate, or a delay in claiming an apprenticeship certificate, and additional costs are incurred, or there is a delay in payment to the EPAO (PAL); PAL reserves the right to charge for any financial inconvenience**
- Inform the company of any changes to that information, for example, variations of address or name, via the online management information system, which apprentices and employers will have log-in access
- Check the information which the company will make available for endpoint assessment and certification, in written or automated form, and inform the assessment company of any errors or, where appropriate, follow procedures for up-dating entries via the appropriate portal. The assessment company will not be held responsible for errors of which it has not been informed but will work to meet data subjects rights to rectification.

Your Rights- Access to your Personal Data

Personnel, apprentices, employers and training providers and other data subjects have the **right to be informed** and the **right to access** any personal data that is being kept about them either on a computer or in structured and accessible manual files.

Under Article 15 of the UK GDPR⁷, you are entitled to ask for a copy of the personal data that is held about you – this is called a Subject Access Request (SAR). When you submit a request for your personal data, you are entitled to:

- confirmation as to whether or not personal data concerning you are being processed, and, where that is the case, access to the personal data and the following information:
- know why we have processed your personal data – the reason(s) and purpose(s) for the processing

⁷ See Article 15 of the UK GDPR for the full list of subject access rights

- the categories of personal data concerned
- know if we have shared or will share your personal data and if so, with whom and for what purpose(s). In particular with recipients in third countries and international organisations
- where possible, the envisaged period for which the personal data will be stored, or, if not possible, the criteria used to determine that period
- a copy of the personal data undergoing processing
- the existence of the right to request for rectification or erasure of personal data or restriction of processing of personal data concerning you or to object to such processing
- where the personal data are not collected from you, any available information as to their source
- complain to the information commissioner's office (ICO)⁸

Subject Access Request (SAR)

Any person may exercise this right by submitting a request in writing to PAL's DPO, in their absence PAL's Business Operations Director or Managing Director will respond to a SAR.

We try to be as open as we can be regarding giving people access to their personal information. Individuals can find out if we hold any personal data by making a '**Subject Access Request' (SAR)**. There is no charge for such a request, and we will respond within 30 days of a verified* request. If we do hold information about you, we will:

- give you a description of it
- tell you why we are keeping it
- tell you who it could be disclosed to
- let you have a copy of the information in an intelligible form

To make a SAR to us for any personal information we may hold, you need to put the request in writing addressing it to either:

- email: info@professionalassessment.co.uk- subject SAR ⁹
- Or by posting to: Connect House, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, England, KT22 7LT

To protect the confidentiality of your information, we will ask you to verify your identity before we proceed with any request you make under this Data Protection and Privacy Policy. If you have authorised a third party to submit a request on your behalf, we will ask them to prove they have your permission to act. From the date, we receive this information we will respond within 30 days.

We will try to deal with your request informally if you agree this is the best way to proceed, for example by providing you with the specific information you need over the telephone or by email. If we do hold information about you, you can ask us to correct any mistakes by using the same email or postal address above. PAL will ask the data subject in what format you wish to receive the information and will make best endeavours to address this requirement.

If we choose not to action your request, we will explain to you the reasons for our refusal. If we feel your application isn't covered under the definition of a SAR, we shall endeavour to assist you to the best of our ability.

PAL aims to comply with requests for access to personal information as quickly as possible but will ensure that it is provided within 30 days unless there is a good reason for the delay. In such cases, the reason for the delay will be explained in writing by the DPO or in their absence he Business Operations Director or Managing Director to the data subject making the request.

SARs will be recorded and monitored by the DPO. PAL treats each SAR on its own merit.

⁸ ICO <https://ico.org.uk/>

Subject Access Requests Should Include:

- Name of individual
- Correspondence address
- Contact number and email address
- Format in which you wish to receive the information

Children & Subject Access Requests

Personal data about a child belongs to that child, and not the child's parents or carers. As a general rule only those with parental responsibility will have the right of access to information about a child's educational, medical and Children's Services record.

All data subjects, including children have the right to: be provided with a transparent and clear privacy notice which explains who you are and how their data will be processed.

Children have a right to access data so long as it's safe. Article 17 of the UNCRC says children and young people should be able to access information, particularly from the media.

Responding To Subject Access Requests

When responding to requests, we:

- Typically ask the individual to provide 2 forms of identification
- May contact the individual via phone to confirm the request was made
- Will respond as quickly as possible and within 30 days of the initial request- for simple requests. If the SAR is complex, we may require a longer period to respond, we will notify you within 30 days if this is the case and will advise you of the time required, which should not exceed three months
- Will provide the information free of charge

If the request is unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee which considers administrative costs A request will be deemed to be unfounded or excessive if it is repetitive or asks for further copies of the same information.

When we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO.

Manifestly Unfounded and Excessive

For almost all the Individual Rights (excluding the right to be informed and the rights regarding automated decision making) an organisation can refuse a SAR if they reasonably believe the request is manifestly unfounded or excessive.

Manifestly unfounded examples can include:

- The requester has no real or sincere intention of exercising their right, for example if they make the request, but offer to withdraw their request in exchange for some form of benefit
- The SAR is made with malicious intent, and is being used to harass an organisation, with no other intent but to cause disruption
- The request makes unsubstantiated accusations against you or specific employees
- The individual is targeting a particular employee against whom they have some personal grudge

Excessive requests are where the requester makes several requests, which overlap previous requests, where they have had the information, they are entitled to, in the most appropriate format, but continue to persist with further requests, which substantially are the same as the original request.

PAL will review any SAR received on a case-by-case basis.

Responding to Requests that involve others (third parties)

Where possible, PAL will consider whether it is possible to comply with the request without disclosing information that identifies another individual. If this is not possible, we would not comply with the request except where the other individual consents to the disclosure or it is reasonable to comply with the request without that individual's consent.

[ICO detailed guidance](#) provides further information on what you need to consider in these circumstances.

Other Rights ¹⁰

Data subjects have the following rights in relation to personal data:

Right to rectification – you can ask PAL to rectify any inaccuracies in your personal data and receive notification that this has been done; this includes processing carried out on our behalf by third parties, so for example in requesting the correction of your name spelling on your apprenticeship certificate. In the case of apprentices for example their Provider can request that PAL corrects any mistakes. To assist PAL, we ask any identified mistakes or inaccuracies are reported to PAL as soon as is practically possible so we can make sure our data is accurate and current.

Right to erasure – you can ask PAL to erase, delete or destroy any personal data we process concerning you, if you believe we have obtained the data unfairly, have misused the data and not processed the data in line with our lawful basis for processing data

Right to restrict processing – you can ask PAL to restrict certain personal data we process about you, for example you can ask us to stop processing your data whilst we are seeking to rectify mistakes, in this situation PAL will suppress processing. In some circumstances, you can restrict our processing of your personal data, request a machine-readable copy of your personal data to transfer to another service provider and compel us to erase your personal data if there is no other legal basis for its retention.

Where any rectification, erasure of personal data or restriction of processing is carried out in accordance with the above, GDPR regulations and this policy, PAL shall communicate any rectification, erasure of personal data or restriction of processing to each recipient to whom the personal data have been disclosed, unless this proves impossible or involves disproportionate effort. You are entitled to be informed about those recipients upon request.

Right to data portability – you have the right to receive personal data held in a structured, commonly used, machine readable format (PAL does not typically or routinely process this form of data).

Right to Object- Where we are using consent as our lawful basis for processing your personal data (e.g., electronic communications inclusive of newsletters, industry news, similar products & services, invitations to events and surveys) you have the right to object at any time. Send your request to info@professionalassessment.co.uk. Where we are using your personal data because it is in our legitimate interests to do so, you can object to us using it this way, if you object on the grounds that the processing is causing you substantial damage or distress (e.g., the processing is causing you financial loss and as such your rights override our legitimate interests).

Rights in relation to automatic decision-making and profiling PAL does not undertake profiling, but for multiple choice question and situational judgement tests, unless a paper-based format is requested, these tests are automatically marked. You can request access to your scores, you cannot have access to the questions and your response to each question.

For detailed information regarding your rights, please refer to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>. You can also contact PAL's DPO

¹⁰Individual rights are subject to certain conditions see GDPR, Articles – 20

Exemptions

The UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 set out exemptions from some of the rights and obligations in some circumstances.

Whether or PAL can rely on an exemption often depends on why we process personal data. PAL does not routinely rely on exemptions; and we consider them on a case-by-case basis. If PAL applies for an exemption, we will document and record our reasons for doing so. If no exemption covers what we do with personal data, we will comply with the UK GDPR regulations.

What are Exemptions?

The exemptions in the DPA 2018 can relieve an organisation of some of its obligations for things such as:

- The right to be informed
- The right of access
- Dealing with other individual rights
- Reporting personal data breaches; and
- Complying with the principles

Some exemptions apply to only one of the above, but others can exempt an organisation's response from several things.

To access more information regarding exemptions, visit <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/data-protection-fee/exemptions/>

Assessment Marks and Grades

Apprentices and employers shall be entitled to information about their grades for assessments and end-point assessment feedback and reports; with the sponsoring employer receiving the feedback in the first instance. Grades and outcomes of assessments will be shared with the relevant provider unless the employer or apprentice provides a legitimate reason for withholding such information.

Assessment scripts, recordings, and Assessment marks

This exemption can apply to personal data in assessment activities.

It exempts an EPAO from the UK GDPR's provisions on:

- The right to be informed
- The right of access; and
- all the principles, but only so far as they relate to the right to be informed and the right of access.

Apprentices and their associated third parties, employers and providers **do not have the right** to copies of the apprentices' answers in direct relation to questions and, this extends to recordings of an apprentice's responses in an interview, professional discussion or oral question and answer session. If you think your grade is wrong, you will need to pursue this via the relevant enquiries and appeal procedures.

The apprentice has the right to enquire and ask to see all their assessment grades, they do not have the right to have access to test responses, or assessment responses as provided in Q&A sessions or interviews.

Notably to provide access to recordings, scripts and assessment responses would be in contravention of qualification regulatory conditions.

See Data Relevant Provisions in the Data Protection Act 2018 (the exemption) - Schedule 2, Part 4, Paragraph 25 for further information

Security and Data Security Breach Management

All personnel are responsible for ensuring that personal data which they process is kept securely and is not disclosed to any unauthorised third parties. Access to personal data should only be given to those who need access for the purpose of their duties. All staff will comply with PAL's IT Policy.

Serious data breaches where there is a high risk to the rights of the individual will be reported to the data subject concerned and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in compliance with the GDPR. All data breaches will be recorded, reported to the Directors and the DAC in their capacity of the DPO will undertake an investigation and advise the MD regarding reports to the ICO and the regulatory bodies. In the absence of the MD, the DPO will directly report any serious data breach to the ICO; and the DPO will advise PAL's Responsible Officer, the Qualifications Director of the need to report such a breach to the relevant regulatory body.

Personal Data Breaches

What is a Personal Data Breach?

A personal data breach means a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. This includes breaches that are the result of both accidental and deliberate causes. It also means that a breach is more than just about losing personal data.

Personal data breaches can include:

- Access by an unauthorised third party
- Deliberate or accidental action (or inaction) by a controller or processor
- Sending personal data to an incorrect recipient
- Computing devices containing personal data being lost or stolen
- Alteration of personal data without permission; and
- Loss of availability of personal data

A personal data breach can be broadly defined as a security incident that has affected the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of personal data. In short, there will be a personal data breach whenever any personal data is accidentally lost, destroyed, corrupted, or disclosed; if someone accesses the data or passes it on without proper authorisation; or if the data is made unavailable and this unavailability has a significant negative effect on individuals.

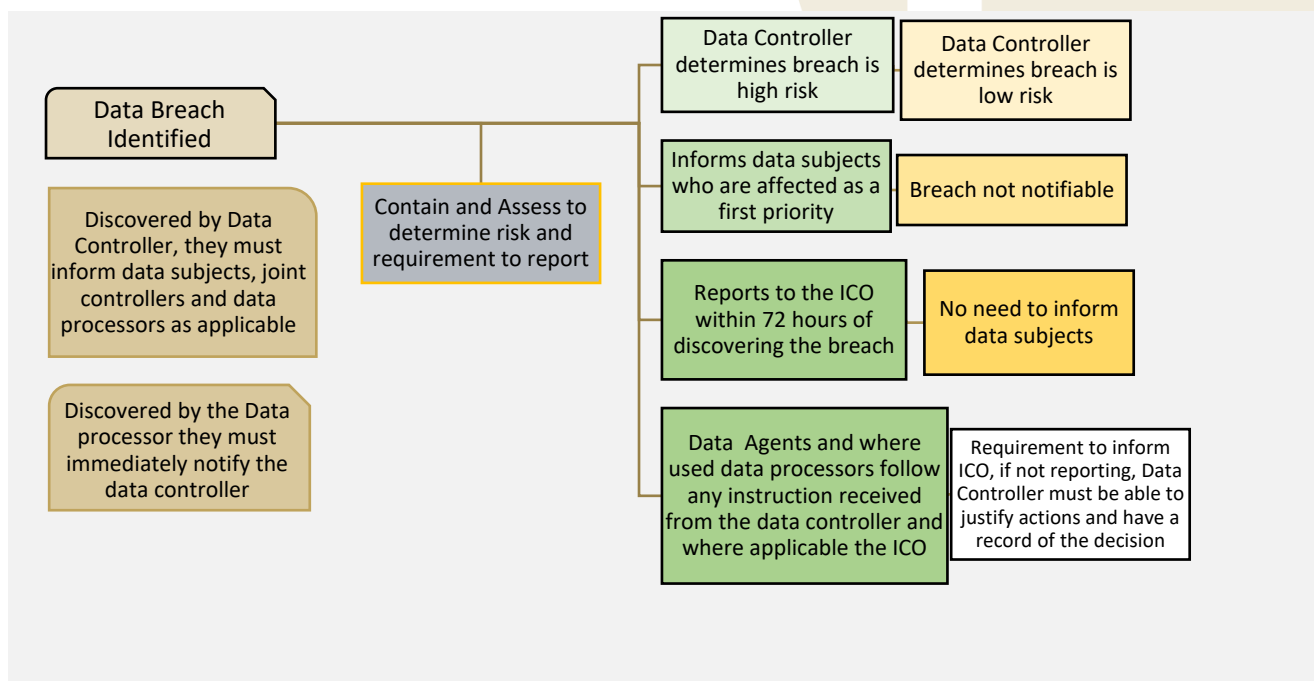
PAL will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches. Such breaches in an EPAO context may include, but are not limited to:

- Results of an apprentice sent to the wrong employer location or wrong apprentice
- Assessment notes and feedback, left on site and accessible to others
- Inaccurate results or grade information issued
- Sharing of information/evidence provided for reasonable adjustments, to unauthorised personnel
- Sharing of information regarding a safeguarding, welfare issue to an authorised person
- Theft of a company laptop or smartphone containing non-encrypted data or information pertaining to a member of PAL personnel or third party
- Third party information, contract arrangements shared with a competitor business or other business

In the instances that a breach is a potential adverse effect or an actual adverse effect the DPO will advise PAL's RO or DRO, to facilitate reporting to the qualifications regulatory body, in line with PAL's reports adverse events procedures.

When does PAL need to tell Individuals about a Breach?

If a breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the UK GDPR says you must inform those concerned directly and without undue delay. In other words, this should take place as soon as possible and to the ICO in 72 hours.



A 'high risk' means the requirement to inform individuals is higher than for notifying the ICO. PAL will need to assess both the severity of the potential or actual impact on individuals because of a breach and the likelihood of this occurring. If the impact of the breach is more severe, the risk is higher; if the likelihood of the consequences is greater, then again, the risk is higher. In such cases, we will promptly inform those affected, particularly if there is a need to mitigate an immediate risk of damage to them. One of the main reasons for informing individuals is to help them take steps to protect themselves from the effect of a breach, which could include for example asking them to change their password, if the breach is in connection with data held on epaPRO or advising data subjects to look out for phishing emails or fraudulent activities on their accounts.

What information must PAL provide individuals when telling them about a Breach?

PAL needs to describe, in clear and plain language, the nature of the personal data breach and, at least:

- The name and contact details of the data protection officer, or other contact point where more information can be obtained- please see DPO details
- A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach- this will be made available from the DPO and in their absence the named deputies as already stated in this policy
- A description of the measures taken or proposed to deal with the personal data breach and, where appropriate, a description of the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects, in respect of the ICO, the Qualifications Regulator and the ESFA

Data Security

We recognise the importance of data security and take several measures to ensure the security of personal data. These include training all staff on data protection and cyber security via an in-house training.

Access to your personal data is password-protected, and only those with permission are granted access. Any misuse of personal data by our employees, is considered a disciplinary offence and a full investigation is automatically initiated. Any misuse of data by any of our associates and consultants/technical advisors will result in an investigation and the potential termination of their service level agreements.

All personnel associated with PAL are required to sign confidentiality agreements, which refers to data protection.

Any breach of data security is recorded, and our Business Operations and Director of Audit and Compliance review our data collection and storage protocols, to ensure we only collect the data we require to discharge our services.

We conduct randomised checks on employees, associates, and consultants/technical advisors' equipment as part of our ongoing and continual improvement of organisational and technical security measures.

Retention of Data

The assessment company will keep different types of information for differing lengths of time, depending on legal, academic, and operational requirements. The ESFA and relevant training providers may use Apprentices' information as part of their ESFA Funding claim. Ofqual requests results data from each EPAO for research and data analysis. In both cases these organisations have strict data processing procedures that are compliant with their lawful basis for processing data and are UK GDPR compliant.

Whenever we collect or process your personal data, we'll only keep it for as long as is necessary for the purpose for which it was received. Our retention and erasure practices are set out in our data, archiving and anonymisation statement.

We retain Employer and Apprentice personal data in accordance with the Education and Skills Funding Agency ([ESFA](#)) who is our governmental funding body. **The ESFA's current retention period is six years after the final use of personal data related to our services and products have been rendered.** This period of six years is stipulated by the ESFA, due to how EPAOs are funded and audited by government agencies and public bodies. We apply this retention period to any data relating to EPA work.

After seven years after the final use of your data, your data will be archived.

For non-related EPA work, to include non-EPA complaints we will retain data for no longer than three years after which time it will be erased. For compliance and audit consultancy work, any data obtained, for example, during an audit is destroyed at the end of the piece of work¹¹.

Complaints and Enquiries Regarding Data Processing- How to Contact PAL

Complaints and enquiries about data processing will be dealt with in accordance with PAL's Complaints Policy, email info@professionalassessment.co.uk and request the email address of the Director of Audit and Compliance (DAC), noting you have a complaint or enquiry in respect of data processing. The DAC enacting their role as the DPO will

¹¹ In terms of compliance working, we do not retain any learner evidence / records. We retain the audit checklists should there be questions from the provider later. These have learner names and findings on them. These will be appropriately archived after six years. Reasons for our data approach here, is audit and compliance clients require PAL to select different learners in every audit. PAL needs to keep a track of who we have previously sampled, hence the retention of the checklists. We will always confirm with our client's data retention, removal, and archiving procedures. Audit and Compliance work involving DSATs, requires the Audit and Compliance team to have these for the current and previous funding year, which can be audited by the ESFA. The Director of Audit and Compliance is responsible for the management, protection and archiving and deleting of such data at the appropriate times.

review your complaint and concerns and follow PAL's relevant procedures, in accordance with the DPA Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Please refer to the SAR section of this policy for further information.

Alternatively, you can write to PAL's DPO (PAL's Director of Audit and Compliance) at Professional Assessment Ltd, Connect House, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 7LT

Contacting the regulator

If you feel that your data has not been handled correctly, or you are unhappy with our response to any requests you have made to us regarding the use of your personal data, you have the right to complain with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You can contact them by calling [0303 123 1113](tel:03031231113). Or go online to www.ico.org.uk/concerns (opens in a new window; please note we can't be responsible for the content of external websites).

Privacy Notices for Specific Policies and Activities

PAL has additional privacy notices to include:

- Appropriate Policy for processing sensitive data
- Whistleblowing Privacy Statement- located in the Whistleblowing policy as an appendix
- Complaints Privacy Statement-located in the Complaints policy as an appendix
- Maladministration and Malpractice Privacy Statement-located in the Maladministration and Malpractice policy as an appendix
- Enquires and Appeals Privacy Statement-located in the Appeals and Enquiry Policy and Procedures as an appendix
- Special Considerations and Reasonable Adjustment Privacy Statement- located in the Special Considerations and Reasonable Adjustments Policy
- Webinar- privacy policy see appendix 4

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently if there are any legislative changes that dictate the need for such a review.

Regulatory references

PAL is required to establish and maintain compliance with regulatory conditions and criteria. This policy relates to Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition: Availability of adequate resources (retention of data) A5; Arrangements with third parties C1. This policy is designed to comply where appropriate and applicable with the DPA 2018 and GDPR UK regulations

Date Created: 6th July 2017

Last Review: 11th March 2024

Next Review: 11th March 2025

Person Responsible for review: Director of Audit and Compliance

This Policy has been agreed by Linda Martin, Managing Director

Appendix One-Personal Data

The UK GDPR applies to the processing of personal data that is:

- wholly or partly by automated means; or
- the processing other than by automated means of personal data which forms part of, or is intended to form part of, a filing system.
- Personal data only includes information relating to natural persons who:
 - can be identified or who are identifiable, directly from the information in question; or
 - who can be indirectly identified from that information in combination with other information.
- Personal data may also include special categories of personal data or criminal conviction and offences data. These are more sensitive, and you may only process them in more limited circumstances.
- Pseudonymised data can help reduce privacy risks by making it more difficult to identify individuals, but it is still personal data.
- If personal data can be truly anonymised, then the anonymised data is not subject to the UK GDPR. It is important to understand what personal data is to understand if the data has been anonymised.
- Information about a deceased person does not constitute personal data and therefore is not subject to the UK GDPR.
- Information about companies or public authorities is not personal data.
- However, information about individuals acting as sole traders, employees, partners, and company directors where they are individually identifiable, and the information relates to them as an individual may constitute personal data.

What are identifiers and related factors?

- An individual is 'identified' or 'identifiable' if you can distinguish them from other individuals.
- A name is perhaps the most common means of identifying someone. However, whether any potential identifier identifies an individual depends on the context.
- A combination of identifiers may be needed to identify an individual.
- The UK GDPR provides a non-exhaustive list of identifiers, including:
 - name
 - identification number
 - location data; and
 - an online identifier.
- 'Online identifiers' includes IP addresses and cookie identifiers which may be personal data.
- Other factors can identify an individual.

Can we identify an individual directly from the information we have?

- If, by looking solely at the information you are processing you can distinguish an individual from other individuals, that individual will be identified (or identifiable).
- You don't have to know someone's name for them to be directly identifiable, a combination of other identifiers may be sufficient to identify the individual.
- If an individual is directly identifiable from the information, this may constitute personal data.

Can we identify an individual indirectly from the information we have (together with other available information)?

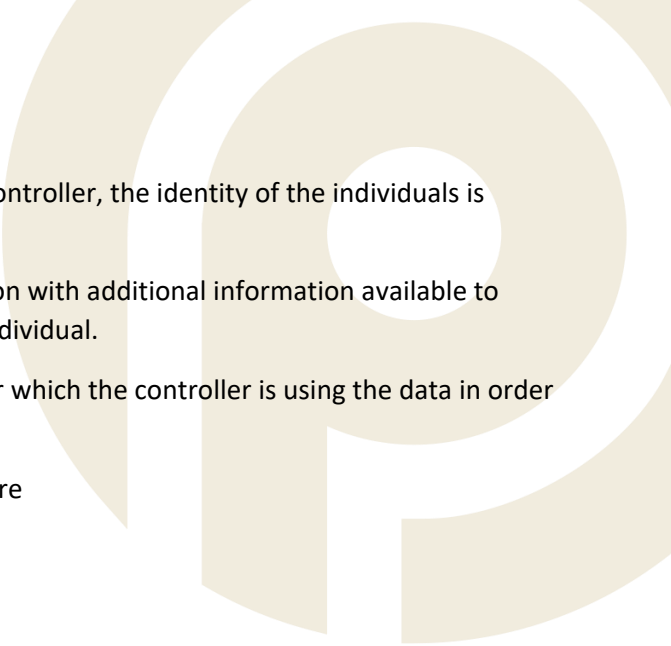
- It is important to be aware that information you hold may indirectly identify an individual and therefore could constitute personal data.
- Even if you may need additional information to be able to identify someone, they may still be identifiable.
- That additional information may be information you already hold, or it may be information that you need to obtain from another source.
- In some circumstances there may be a slight hypothetical possibility that someone might be able to reconstruct the data in such a way that identifies the individual. However, this is not necessarily sufficient to make the individual identifiable in terms of UK GDPR. You must consider all the factors at stake.
- When considering whether individuals can be identified, you may have to assess the means that could be used by an interested and sufficiently determined person.
- You have a continuing obligation to consider whether the likelihood of identification has changed over time (for example because of technological developments).

What is the meaning of 'relates to'?

- Information must 'relate to' the identifiable individual to be personal data.
- This means that it does more than simply identifying them – it must concern the individual in some way.
- To decide whether or not data relates to an individual, you may need to consider:
 - the content of the data – is it directly about the individual or their activities?
 - the purpose you will process the data for; and
 - the results of or effects on the individual from processing the data.
- Data can reference an identifiable individual and not be personal data about that individual, as the information does not relate to them.
- There will be circumstances where it may be difficult to determine whether data is personal data. If this is the case, as a matter of good practice, you should treat the information with care, ensure that you have a clear reason for processing the data and ensure you hold and dispose of it securely.
- Inaccurate information may still be personal data if it relates to an identifiable individual.

What happens when different organisations process the same data for different purposes?

- It is possible that although data does not relate to an identifiable individual for one controller, in the hands of another controller it does.

- 
- This is particularly the case where, for the purposes of one controller, the identity of the individuals is irrelevant, and the data therefore does not relate to them.
 - However, when used for a different purpose, or in conjunction with additional information available to another controller, the data does relate to the identifiable individual.
 - It is therefore necessary to carefully consider the purpose for which the controller is using the data in order to decide whether it relates to an individual.
 - You should take care when you make an analysis of this nature

Appendix Two -What Information we process and why

We do not collect more information than we need to fulfil our stated purposes and will not retain it for longer than is necessary, or required by the regulatory bodies and government agencies and departments that regulate and audit our activities

We hold personal data in five data subject categories. These include Apprentices, Employers, Providers, Suppliers, and our Employees. Suppliers will receive the relevant information in the agreements we hold with them, and our Employees have internal notification not appropriate to this document. We do not collect more information than we need to fulfil our stated purposes and will not retain it for longer than is necessary, or required by the regulatory bodies and government agencies and departments that regulate and audit our activities

We may occasionally send relevant information in the form of newsletters, industry news, similar products and services, invitations to events and surveys in accordance with a data subject's preferences on an opt-in basis within our Contact Preference Centre.

Apprentices

We process apprentice personal data to provide our assessment services. Concerning end-point assessment we require specific information for registration and certification with Ofqual and the ESFA Apprenticeship service.

For end-point assessment services, once an employer has enlisted Professional Assessment Ltd for end-point assessment, we will require information of the apprentice and employer to facilitate assessment.

Required information for end-point assessment

To enrol and certificate the outcomes of end-point assessment, Professional Assessment requires the following:

- Provider Details
- Employer Details
- Apprentice Details
- Standard Details
- Declaration /Consent from apprentice to request apprenticeship certificate
- Notification of any perceived or actual conflicts of interest

Provider details

	Details
Provider Name	The name of the main training provider.
UKPRN	The training provider UKPRN is automatically populated when you select their name.
Contact Details	Contact details for main point of contact to include name; job title and best method of contact (email address or phone number)

Employer details

	Details
Employer Reference Number	The Employer Reference Number (ERN) for the learner's employer. The Employer Data Service (EDS) issues the ERN. The main provider will know this number if the employer is not privy to the information
Employer Name	The employer name, contact details, to include contact number and email and the address supplied is where the apprentice certificate will be posted to.
Employer Contact	
Employer Address	
Town/City	Mandatory address field
Post Code	Mandatory address field

Apprentice Details

	Details
Registration Details, to include whether employer is a levy or non-levy employer	Requires Professional Assessment to specify how the apprenticeship is funded.
Unique Learner (apprentice) Number	This is the apprentice's ten-digit Unique Learner Number issued by the Learner Record Service. The main provider will know this number and will share with the relevant End-point assessment organisation (EPAO).
First Name	This is the name that will appear on the certificate. It should be the name the apprentice registered with the main training provider to take their apprenticeship recorded in the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).
Family Name	
Date of Birth	The apprentice' date of birth.
Sex	The gender of the apprentice, based on the options provided by the ESFA.

Standard details

	Details
Standard Code	The Standard Code listed on the Learning Aims Reference Service (LARS) .
Level	The level of the Standard as it appears on LARS.

Option	For some Standards, the learner can take different options.
Publication Date and Version	The date the Standard was published and where applicable version number
Overall Grade	The overall grade awarded for the achievement of the Standard. For some Standards, there is no grade awarded.
Learning Start Date	The date on which the learning for the Standard began. The main provider will know this.
Achievement Date	This is the date you confirm the learner has passed the end-point assessment and achieved the Standard.

We will collect this data from the apprentice, employer, and training provider, as appropriate and all of this data is required for certification purposes.

Children

As a company we will track when we are requesting information or accessing information for people under the age of eighteen.

The GDPR has special protection for children’s personal data, particularly in the context of commercial internet services such as social networking. PAL offers online services (‘information society services’) to children and relies on consent to collect information about them, we may need a parent or guardian’s consent to process their personal data lawfully, this is specifically relevant to the EPA aspect of the business and EPA Pro (the management information system) will record and engage with employers, training organisations to acquire any such permissions.

The GDPR sets the age when a child can give their own consent to this processing at 16, however a country can select an alternative age, between the age of 13-17 for a child to give their consent. The UK has set the age limit at 13.

PAL will request consent from parents or guardians for the use of personal images for any apprentice under the age of 18, where such images are either commissioned or provided for marketing, PR or research purposes, or such materials are provided as evidence for assessment.

Required information for audit consultancy

For audit and compliance consultancy work the level of data required is influenced by the nature of the commissioned work and Professional Assessment Ltd, will consult with the client as to what information is needed, the purpose of that data and how the data will be used and stored.

The subsequent service level agreements will specify the nature of any data we will require, collect and collate and store. Any data collected will be for the sole function of offering the contracted service.

Appendix Three- Subject Consent

In some cases, such as the handling of sensitive information or the processing of research data, the assessment company is entitled to process personal data only with the consent of the named individual. Agreement to the company handling some specified classes of personal data is a condition of acceptance of an apprentice, employer and training organisation enrolling for endpoint assessment and a condition of employment for personnel.

The assessment company may process sensitive information about a person's health, disabilities, criminal convictions, race, or ethnic origin in pursuit of the legitimate interests of the assessment company to do so. For example, where assessment activities are undertaken with candidates under the age of 18, in contact with children, including young people and people who could be considered at risk, the company has a duty under the Children Act 1989; Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006); Protection of Freedom Act (2012); and other enactments to ensure that personnel are suitable for the job, and apprentices are fit and ready for assessment.

Additionally, all stakeholders are treated with professional courtesy and respect, and the company demonstrates concern for all stakeholders' well-being.

The company may also require such information from company personnel for the administration of the sick pay policy, the absence policy, or the equal opportunities policy, or for course assessment.

The assessment company also asks for information from company personnel about health needs, such as allergies to specific forms of medication, or conditions such as asthma or diabetes.

In some assessment scenarios, the company may need to request such information from Apprentices, for example in endorsing a request for special considerations or the application of reasonable adjustments or to protect the individual's health and safety and well-being. The company will only use such information for its intended purpose.

The consent of the data subject will always be sought before the collection of any sensitive data as defined by the Act.

Where providers are providing potentially sensitive information, as evidence for reasonable adjustments, PAL expects any such request is made with the full knowledge and consent of the apprentice and that only information, relevant to the request and reflective of the apprentice's current needs is made available.

Appendix Four **Privacy notice digital assessment recordings webinars/events/ pre-recorded pieces to Camera**

This privacy notice explains how PAL uses any personal information we collect about you when you **attend** a virtual/online meeting, event or webinar hosted by PAL (we use the term 'meeting' to refer to both webinars and live online events in this document).

Our online meetings are hosted through Microsoft Teams using either Teams Live or Teams. Microsoft Teams is a third-party service that is not owned by PAL. Microsoft Teams is a data processor. Alternatively, if an apprentice or employer or provider wishes us to use another secure online meeting platform, PAL will support this, subject to assurance of suitable accessibility and security arrangements. Stakeholders are advised to look at pertinent platforms' privacy statements.

This privacy notice only refers to the way PAL will use your information. You should also review [Microsoft Teams privacy statement](#) which explains how Microsoft processes personal data.

All data is stored securely. Microsoft stores data held on behalf of PAL within the European Economic Area (EEA). We are continually seeking assurances from Microsoft that any processing of personal data will protect the rights and freedoms of data subjects. We will update this privacy notice with further information as and when appropriate.

Why we need your information when attending meetings that may be recorded

In all cases, we need information about you to enable your attendance at the meeting. This may be as an attendee or presenter. This will include your full name, email address and details of your organisation. We need this information to allow you to access the meeting and ensure the right people are at the right meetings.

We may also collect:

- questions posed in the meeting by attendees
- text from the associated in-meeting chat
- audio, webcam video and shared screen content of panellists
- audio, webcam video or both from attendees that participated by speaking or activating webcams as part of the meeting
- recording of the meeting where this facility is used

Software for meetings

We use either Microsoft Teams or Microsoft Teams Live for meetings. Teams allows up to 300 people per session so for many of our meetings, this software is sufficient for our needs. Indeed, it allows both PAL and attendees to speak with both having sight of audio, webcam videos and chat.

Recording Assessments

For assessment purposes and the requirement to have evidence, we do record assessment activities. Apprentices and employers are advised of the recording requirement in advance. If an apprentice or employer has a legitimate reason for PAL not to digitally record an assessment, the assessor will still be required to take notes and it will be PAL's quality team that will decide if special considerations can be applied. The regulatory body will in these cases, typically be notified of the situation and PAL's reason for not recording the assessment in accordance with the assessment plan requirements.

Sharing and Retention- Assessment Recordings

Recording from assessments are held securely in PAL's apprenticeship management document files. Shared access does allow relevant PAL personnel to access evidence files for the purpose of assessment, moderation, and quality assurance.

PAL is regulated by Ofqual and as part of their external audit activities, they can and do ask to sample all forms of evidence, this includes digitally recorded evidence.

For appeals and enquiries, complaints, whistleblowing, maladministration and malpractice and reasonable adjustments and special considerations, PAL will need to potentially share such evidence with others, to perform objective and fair reviews and investigations and satisfy the regulatory conditions that govern the development, delivery, and award of apprenticeship standards. For further information regarding any of these activities, please review the relevant policy and associated privacy notice.

PAL will retain learner information for six years, for assessment records PAL will comply with its data retention and archiving guidelines, which means we will keep assessment records for three years. Assessment recordings will be retained for one academic post the apprenticeship completion and then archived for two years before being deleted.

For any centre activities, please refer to PAL's Data Archiving, Anonymisation and Retention Policy.

Recording Webinars and Events

For webinars and events made available to our stakeholders and the wider apprenticeship community, we do record most of these meetings. Attendees will be advised of the recording, prior to the meeting, this will be noted in invites and the host facilitator will advise all participants prior to the meeting/event starting that the webinar will be recorded. At such events we can process your data if you are on screen sharing audio, webcam video or use the chat function.

Where the meeting facility allows, delegates who wish to participate can unmute their microphone to allow them to talk and/or activate their camera. Where this is the case, we will collect an audio recording and/or video of your participation.

You can submit text questions during the webinar using the chat function. If this is on Teams, then everyone will see the information during the meeting and in any recording

We may respond to you during the meeting or after the event through calling or emailing you directly, on the contact information you have provided to PAL.

All presenters will have their image and audio captured in the recording.

For client meetings and catch-ups, we do not record the meetings, however we may share the content or aspects of any such meetings with colleagues, where such colleagues are best placed to answer any queries or provide amplification and clarification to specific questions or enquiries you have made.

Where a recording is made, this may be made available as a post-event recording of the webinar made available for all registered users to view via a dedicated link provided by the PAL host. If we intend on publishing the recording elsewhere, such as You Tube, this will be explicit in the registration details.

Sharing personal data within PAL- Webinar

We may share data within PAL before and after the event in the following two specific ways:

- documents containing all questions and the chat log from the meeting will be downloaded by the PAL host to provide answers to delegates' queries, to ensure completeness in any follow-ups or gaining more information for a particular question, or questions, the host may direct specific queries to individuals at PAL, who were not necessarily in attendance at the webinar
- the attendee list will be provided before and after the event to the PAL Board, firstly to facilitate feedback and secondly to ascertain the take-up and effectiveness of such webinars or events

Legal basis for processing

Our processing of the data is necessary for PAL to deliver our services made available to you and meeting our legitimate interests. Where we process special category data such as in respect of any access requirements, we do this with your explicit consent. You can waive accessibility rights, or request PAL provides the information in a different format, so you can access the information. PAL will endeavour to meet such requests where practically possible.

If you wish to withdraw from an event, ideally please contact PAL at info@ to notify us of your cancellation.

Retention of recordings webinars and events

We will review recordings on a yearly basis to see whether the information is still required. We will only keep recordings where the topic is relevant and has been made available via a dedicated link. In most cases, this will be no more than 2 years.

On occasion, we might record a piece to camera in the form of an interview, where a member of the PAL team interviews a guest speaker, and this is undertaken as a piece to camera. Alternatively, we may disseminate talking heads videos, that involved PAL personnel and selected stakeholder representatives. Prior to such recordings we will seek consent from any guest speaker. These types of recordings will be made available either via our website or Padlets.

We will review these specific recordings every 6 months although we would expect such recordings to be available for at least 2 years.

Your rights, e.g., access, rectification, erasure

Subject to some legal exceptions, as a data subject, you have the legal right to:

- access personal data relating to you
- have all or some of your data deleted or corrected
- prevent your personal data being processed in some circumstances
- ask us to stop using your data, but keep it on record

Further details of the rights available to you and how you can exercise these can be found in PAL's Data Privacy Notice and Data Protection and Privacy Policy, available via the PAL website.

How to contact us regarding the privacy notice for attending recorded events

Please send us an email at info@professionalassessment.co.uk and use the following subject lines:

- "Attending a recorded event" if your query is about the privacy notice for attending a recorded event

- “Data protection officer” if your query is regarding retention or removal of your personal data.

We will respond to any rights that you exercise within 30 days of receiving your request, unless the request is particularly complex, in which case we may require longer. We will inform you of this should it be the case.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office:

If you feel that your data has not been handled correctly, or you are unhappy with our response to any requests you have made to us regarding the use of your personal data, you have the right to complain with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). You can contact them by calling 0303 123 1113. Or go online to

www.ico.org.uk/concerns (opens in a new window; please note we can't be responsible for the content of external websites).

Further information

The privacy notice for recordings is available as an appendix in our Data Protection and Privacy Policy, as well as being available as a separate document. You can use our info@ email address to request a copy of this specific notice, please indicate in the subject header you wish to have a copy of PAL’s Privacy notice digital assessment recordings webinars/events/ pre-recorded pieces to Camera

Please note, where we do not specify the exact audience for our meetings or events, we do however indicate suitability and who might benefit from attendance.