



New data protection advice service aimed at small organisations preparing for the General Data Protection Regulation

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a dedicated advice line to help small organisations prepare for a new data protection law.

The phone service is aimed at people running small businesses or charities and recognises the particular problems they face getting ready for the new law, called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The GDPR replaces the current Data Protection Act and comes into force on **25 May 2018**. **You must be compliant with this Act by May 2018**.

Regulated by the ICO, the GDPR strengthens the rules around personal data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

There are already [resources on the ICO website](https://ico.org.uk) (ico.org.uk) to help organisations employing fewer than 250 people prepare for the GDPR. But the new phone line will offer additional, personal advice to small organisations that still have questions.

People from small organisations should dial the **ICO helpline on 0303 123 1113** and select option 4 to be diverted to staff who can offer support. As well as advice on preparing for the GDPR, callers can also ask questions about current data protection rules and other legislation regulated by the ICO including electronic marketing and Freedom of Information.

In addition to the new phone service, the ICO has also announced plans to simplify its popular ["12 steps to take now"](#) graphic in response to calls from small and micro businesses that they need access to targeted information about how to prepare for the GDPR.