



Data Protection Policy

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a concise policy statement regarding the Data Protection obligations of the Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (SLÍ). This includes obligations in dealing with personal data, in order to ensure that the organisation complies with the requirements of the relevant Irish legislation, namely the *Irish Data Protection Act (1988)*, and the *Irish Data Protection (Amendment) Act (2003)* and the *EU Electronic Communications Regulations (2011)*.

SLÍ must comply with the Data Protection principles set out in the relevant legislation. This Policy applies to all Personal Data collected, processed and stored by SLÍ in relation to its staff, service providers and clients in the course of its activities. SLÍ makes no distinction between the rights of Data Subjects who are employees, and those who are not. All are treated equally under this Policy.

The policy covers both personal and sensitive personal data held in relation to data subjects by SLÍ. The policy applies equally to personal data held in manual and automated form. All Personal and Sensitive Personal Data will be treated with equal care by SLÍ. Both categories will be equally referred to as Personal Data in this policy, unless specifically stated otherwise.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and clients of SLÍ.

SLÍ as a Data Controller

In the course of its daily organisational activities, SLÍ acquires, processes and stores personal data in relation to:

- Employees, Volunteers and Directors of SLÍ
- Clients of SLÍ

In accordance with the Irish Data Protection legislation, this data must be acquired and managed fairly. Not all staff members will be expected to be experts in Data Protection legislation. However, SLÍ is committed to ensuring that its staff have sufficient awareness of the legislation to anticipate and identify a Data Protection issue, should one arise. In such circumstances, staff must ensure that the Data Protection Officer is informed, and in order that appropriate corrective action is taken.

Due to the nature of the services provided by SLÍ, there is occasional exchange of personal data between SLÍ and its Data Subjects.

This policy provides the guidelines for this exchange of information, as well as the procedure to follow in the event that a SLÍ staff member is unsure whether such data can be disclosed. In general terms, the staff member should consult with the Data Protection Officer to seek clarification.



The Data Protection Principles

The following key principles are enshrined in the Irish legislation and are fundamental to SLÍ's Data Protection policy.

In its capacity as Data Controller, SLÍ ensures that all data shall:

1. ... be obtained and processed fairly and lawfully.

For data to be obtained fairly, the data subject will, at the time the data are being collected, be made aware of:

- » The identity of the Data Controller (SLÍ).
- » The purpose(s) for which the data is being collected.
- » The person(s) to whom the data may be disclosed by the Data Controller.
- » Any other information that is necessary so that the processing may be fair.

SLÍ will meet this obligation in the following way.

- » Where possible, the informed consent of the Data Subject will be sought before their data is processed;
- » Where it is not possible to seek consent, SLÍ will ensure that collection of the data is justified under one of the other lawful processing conditions – legal obligation, contractual necessity, etc.;
- » Where SLÍ intends to record activity on CCTV or video, a Fair Processing Notice will be posted in full view;
- » Processing of the personal data will be carried out only as part SLÍ's lawful activities, and SLÍ will safeguard the rights and freedoms of the Data Subject;
- » The Data Subject's data will not be disclosed to a third party other than to a party contracted to/with SLÍ and operating on its behalf, or where SLÍ is required to do so by law.

2. be obtained only for one or more specified, legitimate purposes.

SLÍ will obtain data for purposes which are specific, lawful and clearly stated. A Data Subject will have the right to question the purpose(s) for which SLÍ holds their data, and SLÍ will be able to clearly state that purpose or purposes.

3. not be further processed in a manner incompatible with the specified purpose(s).

Any use of the data by SLÍ will be compatible with the purposes for which the data was acquired.

4. be kept safe and secure.

SLÍ will employ high standards of security in order to protect the personal data under its care. Appropriate security measures will be taken to protect against unauthorised access to, or alteration, destruction or disclosure of any personal data held by SLÍ in its capacity as Data Controller.

Access to and management of staff and customer records is limited to those staff members who have appropriate authorisation and password access.

5. ... be kept accurate, complete and up-to-date where necessary.

SLÍ will:

- » Ensure that administrative and IT validation processes are in place to conduct regular assessments of data accuracy;
- » Conduct periodic reviews and audits to ensure that relevant data is kept accurate and up-to-date. Staff contact details and details on next-of-kin are reviewed and updated every two years.



- › Conduct regular assessments in order to establish the need to keep certain personal data.

6. ... be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose(s) for which the data were collected and processed.

SLI will ensure that the data it processes in relation to Data Subjects are relevant to the purposes for which those data are collected. Data which are not relevant to such processing will not be acquired or maintained.

7. ... not be kept for longer than is necessary to satisfy the specified purpose(s).

Once the respective retention period has elapsed, SLI undertakes to destroy, erase or otherwise put this data beyond use.

8. ... be managed and stored in such a manner that, in the event a Data Subject submits a valid Subject Access Request seeking a copy of their Personal Data, this data can be readily retrieved and provided to them.

SLI has implemented a Subject Access Request procedure by which to manage such requests in an efficient and timely manner, within the timelines stipulated in the legislation.

Data Subject Access Requests

As part of the day-to-day operation of the organisation, SLI staff engage in active and regular exchanges of information with Data Subjects. Where a formal request is submitted by a Data Subject in relation to the data held by SLI, such a request gives rise to access rights in favour of the Data Subject.

Any formal, written request by a Data Subject for a copy of their personal data (a Subject Access Request) will be referred, as soon as possible, to the Data Protection Officer, and will be processed as soon as possible. SLI staff will ensure that, where necessary, such requests are forwarded to the Data Protection Officer in a timely manner, and they are processed as quickly and efficiently as possible, but within not more than 40 days from receipt of the request.

It is intended that by complying with these guidelines, SLI will adhere to best practice regarding the applicable Data Protection legislation.


Implementation

Failure of SLI staff to process Personal Data in compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary proceedings.

Contact Details

For all queries relating to Data Protection, please contact our Data Protection Officer Jennifer Harris, jen@slewaterford.ie

The Data Protection Policy will be reviewed in June 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (John Hawkes, SLI Board Chair)

This policy was approved by SLI's Management Committee, June 2023.





Definitions

For the avoidance of doubt, and for consistency in terminology, the following definitions will apply within this Policy.

Data	This includes both automated and manual data. Automated data means data held on computer, or stored with the intention that it is processed on computer. Manual data means data that is processed as part of a relevant filing system, or which is stored with the intention that it forms part of a relevant filing system.
Personal Data	Information which relates to a living individual, who can be identified either directly from that data, or indirectly in conjunction with other data which is likely to come into the legitimate possession of the Data Controller. (If in doubt, SLI refers to the definition issued by the Article 29 Working Party, and updated from time to time.)
Sensitive Personal Data	A particular category of Personal data, relating to: Racial or Ethnic Origin, Political Opinions, Religious, Ideological or Philosophical beliefs, Trade Union membership, Information relating to mental or physical health, information in relation to one's Sexual Orientation, information in relation to commission of a crime and information relating to conviction for a criminal offence.
Data Controller	A person or entity who, either alone or with others, controls the content and use of Personal Data by determining the purposes and means by which that Personal Data is processed.
Data Subject	A living individual who is the subject of the Personal Data, i.e. to whom the data relates either directly or indirectly.
Data Processor	A person or entity who processes Personal Data on behalf of a Data Controller on the basis of a formal, written contract, but who is not an employee of the Data Controller, processing such Data in the course of his/her employment.
Data Protection Officer	A person appointed by SLI to monitor compliance with the appropriate Data Protection legislation, to deal with Subject Access Requests, and to respond to Data Protection queries from staff members and service recipients
Relevant Filing System	Any set of information in relation to living individuals which is not processed by means of equipment operating automatically (computers), and that is structured, either by reference to individuals, or by reference to criteria relating to individuals, in such a manner that specific information relating to an individual is readily retrievable.

Adapted from Association of Data Protection Officers