

GOLDSHAW BOOTH PARISH COUNCIL

DATA BREACH POLICY

This policy specifies the actions with respect to breaches of personal data.

What is a breach?

A data security breach can happen for a number of reasons: Loss or theft of data or equipment on which data is Stored, Inappropriate access controls allowing unauthorised use, Equipment failure, Human error, Unforeseen circumstances such as a fire or flood, Hacking attack, Blagging offences where information is obtained by deceiving the organisation who holds it.

What is Personal Data?

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.

Example - 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
- Reportable theft or loss of an unencrypted laptop computer or other unencrypted portable electronic/digital media holding names, addresses, dates of birth and National Insurance Numbers of individuals.
- A manual paper-based filing system (or unencrypted digital media) holding the personal data relating to named individuals and their financial records etc.

Breach Containment and Recovery Article 2(2) of the Notification Regulation states:

The provider shall notify the personal data breach to the competent national authority no later than 24 hours after the detection of the personal data breach, where feasible.

The Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003

(PECR) provide rules about sending marketing and advertising by electronic means, such as by telephone, fax, email, text and picture or video message, or by using an automated calling system. PECR also include other rules relating to cookies, telephone directories, traffic data, location data and security breaches. Detection of a personal data breach shall be deemed to have taken place when the provider has acquired sufficient awareness that a security incident has occurred that led to personal data being compromised, in order to make a meaningful notification as required under this Regulation.

Dealing with an incident - Reporting Point

On discovery of an incident either as a result of automatic notification, accidental discovery, manual record checking or any other means, all personnel shall:

1. Report the incident via email to the reporting points:
 - The Clerk of the Council and the Council Chairman:
2. The email report should be followed by a telephone call to the Clerk or Council Chairman.
3. Should neither the Clerk nor the Chair be available the Vice-Chair of the Council should be informed.
4. Should the Vice-Chair not be available all members should be notified via email.

Reporting Point Responsibilities

All incidents must be recorded. The reporting point shall perform the following actions:

- Note the time, date and nature of incident together with a description and as much detail as appropriate on an Incident Response Form
- Ensure the protection of any evidence and that a documented chain of evidence is maintained.
- Liaise with relevant authorities, individuals and the media where appropriate.
- Keep a note of all communications together with their date, time, who has been communicated with

1. Incident Response Plan

Assess the risk to individuals as a result of a breach: The following must be considered:

- the categories and approximate number of individuals concerned, and;
- the categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned, and;

- the likely consequences of the personal data breach, in particular consider if the impact results in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

- To help assess the risks refer to the Information Commissioner Office (ICO) website:

a. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/report-a-breach/>

b. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protectionregulation/gdpr/personal-data-breaches/>

2. If the incident is deemed to be a notifiable incident the following actions must be taken:

a) Within 72 hours of becoming aware of the incident (even if not aware of all the details yet):

b) Call ICO: 0303 123 1113 – and provide the following information:

- What has happened;

- When and how the Council found out about the breach;

- the people (how many) that have been or may be affected by the breach;

- what the Council are doing as a result of the breach; and

- who else has been told.

c) For reporting a breach outside normal working hours use the ICO Reporting Form:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/report-a-breach/personal-data-breach/>

3. If the incident is deemed to result in a high risk to the right and freedoms of individuals:

a) Within 48 hours the affected individuals must be informed by telephone, letter or email about the incident as there may be a need for them to take actions to mitigate immediate risk of damage to them.

b) The individuals must be told in clear and plain language:

(i) the nature of the personal data breach and;

(ii) A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach; and

(iii) A description of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken, to deal with the personal data breach and including, where appropriate, of the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects, and;

(iv) The name and contact details of the Clerk and Chairman from where more

information can be obtained;

4. If the incident is not deemed to be notifiable:

a) Complete a Security Incident Log form

b) Include the steps and evidence used to identify and classify the risk. Include reasons why the incident is not deemed to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

5. Incident Review

The Council Clerk and Chairman will ensure that the incident is reviewed at the next appropriate Council meeting under a Policy and Security section on the agenda.

a) The Council will consider whether discussion of the incident warrants exclusion of the press and public from the meeting during that discussion.

b) At that meeting the council should determine if there are any further actions that need to be assigned or completed as a result of the incident.

c) It should be noted that this final stage of the incident may require a review of this policy.

Approved and adopted at a Parish Council Meeting on 12th May 2025.

Review date May 2026.