

BOOKENDS

Data Protection Law, by Simon Chalton and Shelagh Gaskill

Data protection law is a useful reference book written by practising solicitors for any legal professional who wants to achieve a good understanding of the United Kingdom Data Protection Act. It packs into 530 pages a detailed analysis of the background and each provision of the UK Act. It also reproduces in full the texts of the UK, Isle of Man and Jersey data protection laws. Its length, layout, detailed approach and style make it suitable for lawyers and data protection managers in larger organisations who need to have a thorough understanding of the law. The formal layout and rather long sentences could make it heavy going for those data protection managers seeking to understand just enough of the law to submit their organisation's registration form to the Registrar's office. However, even such a user would find this book useful as soon as his organisation receives a difficult request for access to records, or is served with an enforcement notice by the Registrar and wishes to appeal to the data protection tribunal.

These pages are a repackaging of the heart of the Encyclopedia of Data Protection - a loose-leaf volume also published by Sweet and Maxwell. This book represents by far the best value for money. The rest of the encyclopedia consists mainly of material such as the Registrar's guidelines, which can be obtained free of charge from the Registrar's Office.

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Tel 405 5711

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Managing Data Protection by Dr C.N.M. Pounder, M. Kosten, S. Papadopoulos, and A. Rickard

Managing Data Protection is extremely valuable for any manager who needs to both understand the UK law and implement it in his organisation. The book is rich in real life examples taken from the media to illustrate the data protection principles such as accuracy and relevance and explains how they should be tackled. The book goes much further and provides a whole chapter on staff training with an outline of a seminar and a model employee leaflet. One chapter also has outlines for training specific groups like board members, systems designers and departmental liaison officers. One third of the book is devoted to data security with separate chapters on management strategy; the conditions necessary for physical security; software utilities, passwords, and access rights; microcomputers; and network security. The appendices contain model forms for an organisation's procedural review of its data processing activities to provide the information on which a corporate data protection strategy may be based.

The wealth of experience that the authors have poured into the book is clearly presented and accessible to any non-specialist but with enough detail for most situations. The book's emphasis on how to manage the common privacy principles would make it a good buy for data protection managers in any country.

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