

Dubai

Dubai International Finance Centre's Data Protection Commissioner Comments on Safe Harbor

The Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC) Data Protection Commissioner has reconsidered the adequacy status afforded to US Safe Harbor recipients and recommends that transfers of personal data from the DIFC to the US should rely on alternative mechanisms provided for under the DIFC Data Protection Law of 2007.

[DIFC Data Protection Commissioner Guidance](#) (PDF)

Germany

Berlin Data Protection Officer Criticises New Federal Resident Registration Act

The Berlin Data Protection Officer has criticised the new Federal Resident Registration Act (*Bundesmeldegesetz*) which entered into force on 1 November 2015 for its deficiencies in terms of data protection. The Act was criticised in particular for the fact that it allows information on the register, such as date of birth, marital status and prior addresses to be obtained without a legal interest being shown. Furthermore, the Officer considered that the obligation to register hotel residence would result in unreasonable data retention. The obligation of lessors to cooperate was also considered unjustified as it was not considered appropriate for combatting false registrations.

[Information note](#) (PDF) (in German)

Data Protection Office of Baden-Württemberg on Privacy by Design

The Data Protection Officer of Baden-Württemberg has stressed the importance of privacy by design for future data protection. He referred to a current research project between his office and scientists from the University of California, Irvine on cryptographic applications called "private set intersection" which allow users to find out about their similarities with others without disclosing personal data.

[Press release](#) (PDF) (in German)

UK

Culture, Media and Sport Committee Inquiry Launched

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee has launched an inquiry into the protection of personal data online. The inquiry has arisen as a result of the recent data breach suffered by TalkTalk, though the scope of the inquiry is wider than this matter alone. The inquiry will consider the nature of the cyber-attacks on the TalkTalk website, the measures telecoms and internet service providers have in place to ensure cybersecurity, the investments being made to guard against future threats, encryption, the adequacy of regulatory oversight, enforcement regimes and redress mechanisms, and likely future trends in hacking, technology and security. The Committee is accepting written submissions until 23 November 2015.

[Inquiry site](#)

ICO Commentary on Impact of Search Result Judgment

The ICO has published a number of statistics regarding the cases it has dealt with as a result of the Court of Justice of the European Union's (CJEU) 2014 ruling on removing search results. The ICO suggests that there has not been an avalanche of cases on the issue, but complaints have been steady. Only 20% of cases received by the ICO have required delisting of search results.

[ICO Blog Post](#)

US

US Chamber of Commerce Testimony on Safe Harbor

The US Chamber of Commerce has been called to testify to the House of Commerce and Communications and Technology Subcommittees about the CJEU's decision in Schrems. The Chamber stated that the Safe Harbor agreement is invalid, though noted that the decision was actually about the process of the EU Commission and did not address the substantive data protection rules. The Chamber called for EU and US governments to continue to work closely to provide a revised Safe Harbor agreement. Finally, the Chamber encouraged the passage of the Judicial Redress Act through the Senate.

[Statement of the US Chamber of Commerce](#) (PDF)

Consumer Electronics Association Provides Voluntary Guidelines

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) has released a set of voluntary guiding principles on privacy and security of personal wellness data. The CEA notes that wearable (and other) wellness devices collect a range of personal and sensitive data about consumers, and this is increasing. The CEA has therefore provided a number of baseline principles that can be followed by the broad range of companies operating in the sector. The CEA's guidance includes ensuring the security of data, providing a clear policy on the use of data collected, obtaining consent prior to transfers of data to unaffiliated third parties, ensuring fair processing and control of advertising communications.

[CEA statement of guiding principles](#) (PDF)

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