

Germany

Baden-Württemberg Releases Guidebook on Employee Data Protection

The Baden-Württemberg Data Protection Authority (DPA) has released a [practical guidebook](#) on employee data protection. In a press release, the DPA explained that this follows a rise in the number of complaints addressed to the DPA by employees. The guidebook analyses 13 cases that relate to employee data protection and provides cooperative solutions. The DPA points out that its aim is to give advice to companies, despite its primary role as a supervisor, and highlights that through early involvement of the DPA, new economic developments could also be seen in the long term.

Voßhoff Welcomes Decision Not to Enforce Data Retention

The Federal Data Protection Commissioner, Andrea Voßhoff, [has welcomed the recent decision by the Federal Network Agency \(Bundesnetzagentur\)](#) not to enforce the data retention obligations or to initiate fine proceedings against non-compliant telecommunication providers. This decision follows a case before the Higher Administrative Court (*Oberverwaltungsgericht*) of Nordrhein-Westfalen from June 2017, which ruled that the obligation of telecommunication providers to retain their users' communication data was not compatible with European Union law. The data retention obligation was reintroduced in Germany in December 2015 and must be complied with from 1 July 2017. Voßhoff stated that the Federal Network Agency acted appropriately with respect to the current jurisdiction and that data retention constituted a massive breach of basic rights.

Japan

Japan on the Way to Adequacy Decision by Early 2018?

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, made a [joint declaration on 6 July 2017](#): "With the recent reforms of their respective privacy legislation... GDPR... which will apply from 25 May 2018, and of the Japanese Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI) on 30 May 2017, the EU and Japan have further increased the convergence between their two systems, which rest notably on an overarching privacy law, a core set of individual rights and enforcement by independent supervisory authorities. This offers new opportunities to facilitate data exchanges, including through a simultaneous finding of an adequate level of protection by both sides. With this in mind, we reaffirm our commitment to further intensify our efforts achieving this by goal by early 2018."

UK

SMEs Warned as Firm Hit by Cyberattack is Fined £60,000 by the ICO

A small company, which suffered a cyberattack, was [fined £60,000 by the ICO](#). Boomerang Video Ltd., based in Berkshire, was subject to a cyberattack in 2014, in which 26,331 customer details were able to be accessed. The ICO's investigation found that it had failed to take basic steps to protect its customers' information from a cyberattack. Failures included not carrying out regular penetration testing on the company's website and holding encrypted cardholder details and CVV numbers on its web server for longer than necessary. The ICO's ruling makes clear that any business that handles personal information must comply with data protection laws, irrespective of its size.

Contacts



Philip Zender

Partner, San Francisco
T +1 415 393 9827
E philip.zender@squirepb.com



Francesca Fellowes

Senior Associate, Leeds
T +44 113 284 7459
E francesca.fellowes@squirepb.com



Stephanie Faber

Of Counsel, Paris
T +33 1 5383 7400
E stephanie.faber@squirepb.com



Annette Demmel

Partner, Berlin
T +49 30 7261 68 108
E annette.demmel@squirepb.com



Caroline Egan

Consultant, Birmingham
T +44 121 222 3386
E caroline.egan@squirepb.com



Emma Garner

Associate, Leeds
T +44 113 284 7416
E emma.garner@squirepb.com