

Data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) | Electoral Commission

Data protection guidance for Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers

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assessments (DPIAs) Data protection impact assessments ensure that data protection

principles are integral to the design of processes by helping to identify, assess and

mitigate risks. Data protection legislation requires that a DPIA is undertaken before

processing when: you are using new data processing technologies for example, if you

introduce a new initiative to issue canvassers with tablets, you need to undertake a

DPIA first. the processing is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and

freedoms of individuals for example, processing applications for anonymous

registration is high risk processing ( see our guidance on high risk processing for

further information ). A DPIA is not required where a processing operation has a

lawful basis that regulates the processing and a DPIA has already been undertaken.

For example, if your canvassers are already using tablets and processing is underway

you are not required to conduct a retrospective DPIA. However, you should ensure that

data protection principles are integral to your existing processing operations, and a

DPIA can help evidence this. When you undertake any new process, you should undertake

DPIAs as a matter of good practice. This will enable you to demonstrate that data

protection is integral to your processes and support the principle of accountability.

We have produced the following template DPIA which is used by the Electoral

Commission. Example Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) (DOC) The template

relates to our activities, so you will need to adapt it to make it relevant, but it

may support you in undertaking your own DPIAs. You should speak to your council's

Data Protection Officer/Information Officer before undertaking a DPIA. DPIAs and

anonymous registration applications Applications for anonymous registration contain

data relating to anonymous electors' or applicants' personal safety. The lawful basis

for processing this data is set out in legislation but the processing is high risk

due to the nature of the data. You should have a DPIA in place for processing

anonymous registration applications, and if you don't you should undertake one. Last

updated: 22 February 2023 Book traversal links for Data protection impact assessments

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Assessment (DPIA)