

The state representative for

privacy and

Freedom of Information

free

Hanseatic city

Bremen

Bremerhaven, 05/23/2019

PRESS RELEASE

A steep thesis for the first birthday of the GDPR: data protection awareness

in the state of Bremen has doubled since May 2018

The European General Data Protection Regulation is already one year after its first day of application

"GDPR" on everyone's lips. Very few abbreviations can assert themselves so rapidly. Since

Weeks later, the Bremen State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information will

Conclusion asked and should assess whether the level of data protection in the State of Bremen through the GDPR increased.

dr Imke Sommer replies: "It is difficult to measure the level of data protection. In the ten

years in which I observe the status of informational self-determination in the state of Bremen,

There have been three events that have led to the awareness of the people

for this topic has increased abruptly in each case. These events are certainly also related to this

contributed to an increase in the level of data protection. It is the publication of

Street views of all Bremen houses

in November 2010 to the revelations

Edward Snowden on surveillance by the US National Security Agency

June 2013 and around the first day of application of the European General Data Protection Regulation on

May 25, 2018. To be more precise, they are the ones with the terms Streetview, GDPR and the name

Edward Snowden-related public discussions that are increasing data protection awareness

allowed. In the summer of 2010, there was an argument in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen about whether it was stuffy or it is legitimate to exclude the world from the virtual view of one's own front yard. In summer 2013, the public in Bremen also became concerned about the comprehensive and unprovoked surveillance of smartphones and Internet communication by a US American national secret service. In the summer of 2018, the state of Bremen also discussed bell signs, coerced consent, unwanted advertising and threats of fines. These public discussions caused everyone to think about what information unknown to their information about them may and may not have. Each of these discussions caused an increase in awareness of the vulnerability of the right to decide for yourself who does what and when knows about people."

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The state commissioner for data protection points out that in the course of the publication of House fronts also felt people who had previously thought they had nothing to hide developed that there are rooms that they do not want to be visible from all over the world. similar One year after the revelations by Edward Snowden, 80% of the representative correctly assigned and supported his name by the German citizens surveyed 82% his revelations. The changes in connection with the GDPR are also quantifiable rateable: One year after the first day of application of the GDPR, the number of monthly complaints about data protection violations received by the Bremen state commissioner doubled

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[tail.php?gsid=bremen236.c.15665.de](https://www.datenschutz.bremen.de/de-tail.php?gsid=bremen236.c.15665.de)).

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The state representative: "The doubling of the complaints is certainly not an indication that after May 25, 2018 so many more data breaches have happened in the state of Bremen than in the time before. On the contrary, even the supervisory practice confirms the impression that many who process personal data, reluctantly, enthusiastically or simply because it had to be, have implemented the GDPR. However, the doubling shows very clearly that those affected have become more sensitive. Perhaps the discussion about the GDPR even encouraged them to engage with to report their complaint to the State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information.

A sociologist would shy away from attributing the doubling of the number of complaints to the increase in to convert data protection awareness. On the other hand, on the first birthday of the GDPR as Speak to a lobbyist for fundamental rights. Therefore, I congratulate the GDPR with the steep thesis that data protection awareness in the state of Bremen has doubled since the first day of application."

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