

The state representative for

privacy and

Freedom of Information

P R E S S E M I T T E I

L U N G

free

Hanseatic city

Bremen

Bremen/Bremerhaven,

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Plea for the calm of the rule of law in times of digital gold rush mood

On the occasion of the publication

Annual report according to the European

The General Data Protection Regulation provides the State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (LfDI) Dr. Imke Sommer states that the main focus of activity is data protection law

Supervisory authority in the state of Bremen in 2020 with the number of complaints and

Consultation volume shifted significantly towards topics in the context of the pandemic.

The LfDI alone received 21 complaints about openly accessible guest lists in restaurants or

even about the fact that the mobile number left by a service person to contact you

had been used. Some data breach reports related to a hacking attack on

a digital version of the guest lists in the catering area was directed. complaints about

that the public order office during quarantine checks provide health data to neighbors

Revealed to neighbors could not be clarified.

Above all, however, the pandemic shaped the consulting area. On the occasion of consultations in

In the employment context, the LfDI learned of data protection violations m

with knowledge

Previous illnesses, with certificates and sick notes in the context of a pandemic. Common themes were the use of private devices and private telephone numbers in the context of telework and

Digital activity or status recordings that are highly problematic in terms of data protection law.

The numerous requests for advice that the LfDI made with dealing with the

Pandemic

employed administrations related, in addition to accompanying the construction of the

Administrative infrastructure, for example, on the use of corona data for research purposes,

the reporting of negative corona test results, the inadmissibility of passing on corona

Data from the health authorities to the police and the publication of corona case numbers.

Corona scouts and staff for quarantine controls were given data protection regulations by the LfDI

trained. In the school context, for example, the consultations had the digital learning platform,

Video conferencing systems in the school context, iPads for students, use pr

father

Devices for school purposes and the online portal for reading promotion.

Both in the private sector and in the management of the pandemic by the administration

showed that too quickly unfounded hopes in newly developed digitization processes

were set. Frequently presented by short, related to fundamental self-evidence

Questioning that, both legally and technically, there are unnecessary risks for

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those would have had to be accepted, their personal data, mostly even

health data should be processed.

The summing up of the state representatives: "Although the digitization push that we are seeing in the

experience a pandemic, in principle even an opportunity for the protection of personal data

mean. However, digitization is not always done well and can then be particularly easy for

violations are abused. This is evidenced by the fact that the data protection supervisory authorities in the past year in health, work, school and other areas of life many digital data breaches and many not well thought out in terms of data protection business ideas were addressed. Here it only helps, the encroaching digital gold rush mood oppose the rule of law. Otherwise we will not only experience after the pandemic Relief at the health risks overcome, but a rude awakening in one Situation in which digital border crossings have become routine."

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