



Template: Data Minimisation Checklist

Only collect what you need, keep it only as long as necessary, & use it responsibly.

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Change Log

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Template: Data Minimisation Checklist

This checklist helps small teams and organisations review what data they collect, why they collect it, and whether it's truly necessary.

It supports the Privacy by Default principle: collect only what you need, keep it only as long as necessary, and use it responsibly

.Tips for Use: The easiest way to minimise data is to **start small and stay curious** – always ask, “do we really need this?”

Step 1 - Define the Purpose

- Clearly describe why you're collecting each type of data.

Data Type	Purpose / Use	Is this purpose clearly documented?	Can the purpose be achieved without collecting this data?
e.g., Email address	Account setup	Yes	No

Step 2 - Assess Necessity

- Review every field, form, and database.

- Do we need each item for the stated purpose?
- Could we use less identifying information (e.g., postcode instead of full address)?
- Are optional fields clearly marked as optional?
- Are we avoiding “just in case” collection?

Step 3 - Limit Retention

- Review how long you keep each data type.

Data Type	Retention	Is this period justified?	Disposal Method
	Period		
e.g., Contact form submissions	90 days	Y	Secure deletion

Step 4 - Limit Access

- Confirm who has access and why.
- Are access levels appropriate and reviewed regularly?
- Do temporary staff or volunteers have restricted access?
- Is data encrypted or pseudonymised where possible?

Step 5 - Communicate Clearly

- Make your data practices easy to understand.
- Is the collection explained in your privacy notice/policy?
- Are users informed about retention and deletion timelines?
- Do you provide contact details for data access or correction requests?

Step 6 - Review & Improve

- Schedule regular reviews.

Review Date	Reviewer	Summary of Findings	Actions Required

