

# Data Protection Act 1998

- Applies to information stored both on computers and in organised paper filing systems.
- Covers personal data:
  - Any data which can be used to identify a living person.
  - And data which can be used in combination with other data to identify a living person.
- An individual who can be identified by personal data is called a data subject.
- The Act protects data subjects in eight specific ways:
  1. Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully.
  2. Personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purpose.
  3. Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive for its purpose(s).
  4. Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary kept up to date.
  5. Personal data shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for its purpose(s).
  6. Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under this Act.
  7. Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.
  8. Personal data shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of data protection.
- The Act gives data subjects certain rights.
- The right to request a copy of the data held about them.
- The right to correct the data held about them.
- The right to prevent marketing using contact details provided by the data subject.
- As of 2018, The Act has been replaced.

# Computer Misuse Act 1990

- Concerns the malicious use of computers.
- Originally created to ensure that computer hacking was covered by law.
- It has since been frequently updated.
- Covers three primary offences:
  1. Unauthorised access to computer materials.
  2. Unauthorised access with intent to commit further offences.
  3. Unauthorised modification of computer material.

# Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988

- Brought in to protect people's property online.
- Covers works like logos and music recordings.
- Copyright automatically applies to original works.
- Copyright doesn't expire until 25-70 years after the death of the creator, depending on the type of work.
- The Act was extended in 1992 to include computer programs.

# Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

- Covers investigation and surveillance by public bodies.
- Enforces internet service providers and mobile phone companies to give up information upon request from an authorised authority.
- Ensures that ISP's networks have sufficient hardware installed to facilitate surveillance.
- Particularly controversial as its powers extend to small agencies such as local councils.
- Some people feel the Act is an invasion of privacy.
- Some people feel that the Act is often improperly used.