

# AZ Preoperative System – GDPR & Accessibility Discussion (LSEPI Contribution)

---

This document contains my individual contribution to the AZ Preoperative System project. It covers GDPR and accessibility considerations originally written as part of the group's LSEPI documentation.

---

## Relevant Issues

An issue that our project faces is linked to GDPR. The database contains private information about patients such as personal details and highly sensitive medical information. To prevent problems like data breaches, the database would need to be better protected.

A second issue links to accessibility. Accessibility is important to ensure that all types of users can access and navigate the website easily.

## Discussion

Our system contains personal details about staff and patients. Not conforming to GDPR rules could lead to data breaches, possibly leading to personal information being accessed by unauthorised personnel. For example, we did not use encryption. This could then lead to fines and legal prosecution, and loss of trust from users who use the system (GDPR Handbook, n.d.). An example of a data breach happening in the real world is the Cambridge Analytica scandal, where Facebook was fined £500,000 for breaches of the Data Protection Act. Facebook failed to protect users' information and wasn't clear about how the data was used by others (Hern and Pegg, 2018). This is why it is important to ensure that the system complies with GDPR and that the data is highly secure.

As for accessibility, the web application could have been improved by adding features to make the website more accessible. An accessible website should have features that make the website easy to navigate by all users. Our system is not suitable for people with colour blindness, and since it is all in English, people who do not speak English would have difficulty using this application. An example is that a web accessibility lawsuit was filed against Target. It was determined it was difficult for users with visual impairments and users who use screen readers to navigate the website. For example, some links were not efficiently described (Yatchenko, 2023). This is why ensuring a website is accessible is important to prevent lawsuits.

## References

- Hern, A., & Pegg, D. (2018, July 11). *Facebook fined for data breaches in Cambridge Analytica scandal*. The Guardian.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jul/11/facebook-fined-for-data-breaches-in-cambridge-analytica-scandal>
- GDPR Handbook. (n.d.). *Consequences of GDPR non-compliance*. Retrieved April 16, 2024, from <https://www.gdprhandbook.eu/consequences-gdpr>

Yatchenko, D. (2023, November 17). *Website Accessibility Lawsuits: The Cost of Ignoring Web Accessibility in Consumer Goods, Services, and Retail*. Pixiplex.  
<https://pixiplex.io/blog/web-accessibility-lawsuits/>