

# Data protection, Privacy, Freedom of Information

Why privacy is important?

An individual could be easily harmed by the existence of computerised data about him/her

Data could be

- health care records
- criminal justice: investigation & proceedings
- Biological: traits, such as genetic material
- Residence: location
- Ethnicity.

What is data protection Act?

- Freedom to process data vs privacy of individuals.
- Must comply with 8 principles

Objective of Data protection Act?

protect the individuals from:

- use of inaccurate info. or info. that is incomplete or irrelevant
- use of personal info. by unauthorized people
- use of personal info other than intended ~~people~~ purpose

## Terms of data protection Act:

- Personal data: info. of living individual
- Data users: org. or individuals who control the content of files of personal data
- Data Subject: An individual who provides the personal info. / subject of personal info
- Data controller: Person who determines why or how personal data is processed.

Data Processing: Mean obtaining, recording, holding the info or carrying out operations on data

## Main Principles of data protection Act.

1. Fairly & lawfully processed
2. Processed for limited purpose
3. adequate, relevant & not excessive
4. Accurate, not kept longer than necessary
5. Processed in line with your rights
6. held securely
7. Measures shall be taken against unauthorized or unlawful processing of personal data & against accidental loss or damage
8. transferred to countries with adequate data protection

★ Read slide 17-25 for details.



## Rights of Data Subjects

1984 Act gave the data subjects the following rights

- Right to know if data controller has info related to them
- Right to see the data
- Right to erase or correct the data
- Data subjects must receive description of the personal data being held.
- An explanation for the purpose of holding the data
- Description of people/org. to whom the data might be ~~disclosed~~ disclosed
- Description of source of data.

Data protection acts all the government, security services and lawful agencies to intercept, monitor and ~~electronic data~~ investigate electronic data in certain specified situations. i.e preventing or detecting crime. They may monitor or record communications (calls, texts) without consent of the users to ensure: ~~organ~~

- organization's regulations and procedures are being complied with;
- To demonstrate standards ~~with~~ which are ought to be achieved



## Freedom of Information

Primary purpose of freedom of information act is to provide accessible rights to the info. held by bodies in public sector. Under terms & conditions anyone can apply for access to such information.

→ Under freedom of info. law any citizen can seek any info. or record from any public body except info. categorized by law that cannot be disclosed.