

In the scenario regarding data privacy, Ricardo, who works in the computer records department, has a responsibility to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the data he handles. It is essential to consider both the ethical and legal consequences of his actions.

If Ricardo is not responsible for determining allowable access, he cannot release the names and addresses to Beth. Doing so would breach ethical principles, violate organisational policies, and compromise the privacy rights of individuals.

If Ricardo holds the responsibility for determining access, he must carefully evaluate the rights of the individuals whose data is being requested against Beth's research needs. Data should only be released when individuals have given their informed consent and are fully aware of how their information will be used. This requirement aligns with the principles outlined in Article 7 of GDPR, which emphasises the importance of consent in data processing. Ricardo must also ensure that there are safeguards in place to protect against misuse or harm.

Beth should only be allowed to contact individuals if they have explicitly granted permission for their data to be used in this way. Without consent, reaching out to individuals would violate their privacy and could potentially cause distress.

If Beth cannot obtain sufficient responses, she should consider alternative approaches to achieve her research objectives. She might follow up with non-respondents, providing additional details about the study's purpose to encourage participation while avoiding any form of undue pressure. Alternatively, Beth may need to redesign her study to work with the data for which she has received explicit permission or consider using aggregated or anonymised data where possible.

By adhering to these ethical guidelines, Ricardo and Beth can ensure that the study is conducted responsibly, respecting both legal obligations and the privacy of the individuals involved.

#### References:

GDPR. (2018, March 28). *Art. 7 GDPR – conditions for consent*. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). <https://gdpr-info.eu/art-7-gdpr/>