
LEGAL ISSUES

Issues for legislators and those who enforce the law:

- Geographical limitations: most UK laws only apply in the UK but it is difficult to prove where a particular internet offence took place.
- Constant change: as technology develops so rapidly, laws become out of date quickly

Data Protection Act

Anyone processing personal data must comply with principles of good practise: data must be processed lawfully and for limited purpose, relevant, accurate, stored securely and no longer than necessary.

- *Personal data*: data on an individual where the person is alive and can be identified.

Freedom of Information Act

Public and government agencies are obliged to give the public access to information.

Computer Misuse Act

Introduced to prevent hacking, contains three specific offences relating to computer usage:

- Unauthorised access to computer programs or data
- Unauthorised access with further criminal intent
- Unauthorised modification of computer material

Copyright, Designs and Patent Act

Gives right to the creators of certain kinds of material allowing them control over the way in which the material is used.