

# Case Study on Privacy – Seminar Notes

## 1. Ricardo not responsible for access

No authority means he cannot release data (Data Protection Act 2018; UK GDPR)

Breach of confidentiality and trust (ACM Code of Ethics, 2018)

Risk of disciplinary or legal consequences

## 2. Ricardo responsible for access

Balance research benefit vs individual privacy

Must follow policy and law (Data Protection Act 2018)

Fairness: apply same rule for all researchers (ACM Code of Ethics)

Risk of harm if personal data is misused

## 3. Should Beth contact individuals?

Names should not be released without consent (UK GDPR: consent principle)

Records department must consider:

- Data protection law (GDPR, 2018)
- Informed consent of individuals
- Risk of unwanted intrusion (BERA, 2018)
- Duty of care to safeguard privacy (ACM Code of Ethics)

## 4. If one-third consent, one-third refuse, one-third no response

Silence not equal consent (GDPR principle of explicit consent)

Cannot include those who refused or did not respond

Options:

- Proceed with smaller sample
- Redesign study to fit available participants
- Seek anonymised data alternatives
- Stop project if ethical standards cannot be met (BERA, 2018)

## References

ACM (2018) *ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct*. New York: Association for Computing Machinery. Available at: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> (Accessed: 12 August 2025).

BERA (2018) *Ethical guidelines for educational research*. 4th edn. London: British Educational Research Association. Available at: <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-2018> (Accessed: 12 August 2025).

UK Government (2018) *Data Protection Act 2018*. London: The Stationery Office. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted> (Accessed: 12 August 2025).

UK GDPR (2018) *UK General Data Protection Regulation*. London: The Stationery Office. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection> (Accessed: 12 August 2025).