

The Role of Data Protection Officer



What are the key duties of a Data Protection Officer (DPO)?

To be the first point of contact in the organisation for Supervisory Authorities and for individuals whose data is processed.

To inform and advise the organisation and its employees about their obligations to comply with the GDPR and other data protection laws.

To monitor compliance with the GDPR and other data protection laws. Monitoring includes:

- Managing internal data protection activities
- Advising on data protection impact assessments (DPIA)
- Training employees
- Conducting internal audits

Who can fill the role of Data Protection Officer?

The Data Protection Officer may be:

- An existing employee (as long as the DPO role is compatible with the employee's existing duties and will not lead to a conflict of interests)
- An employee specifically appointed to fulfil the role
- Contracted out externally

Data protection officers must have sufficient professional experience and knowledge of data protection law to enable them to carry out their roles. A specific GDPR related qualification is not required.