

# Wheatley Group Special Category Data Policy

We will provide this policy on request at no cost, translated, in large print, in Braille, on tape or in another non-written format.

We can produce information on request at no cost in large print, in Braille, on tape or in another non-written format. We can also translate this into other languages. If you need information in any of these formats, please call us on 0800 479 7979 or email [info@wheatley-group.com](mailto:info@wheatley-group.com)

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Customer engagement required	<i>No</i>
Trade union engagement required	<i>Yes</i>
Equality Impact Assessment	<i>No</i>

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## **1. Introduction**

The UK General Data Protection Regulation Data Protection Action Act 2018 (the Act) requires controllers who process special category (i.e. sensitive) personal data, (or personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences) to have an “appropriate policy document” in place setting out a number of additional safeguards for this data.

More specifically, the Act states that:

“The controller has an appropriate policy document in place in relation to the processing of personal data... if the controller has produced a document which:

- a) explains the controller’s procedures for securing compliance with the principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR (the UK GDPR) (principles relating to processing of personal data) in connection with the processing of personal data in reliance on the condition in question; and
- b) explains the controller’s policies as regards the retention and erasure of personal data processed in reliance on the condition, giving an indication of how long such personal data is likely to be retained.”

This document is the policy adopted by Wheatley Housing Group and all of its Subsidiaries (the Group) in relation to this processing.

This Policy applies across the Group and is intended to ensure a standardised approach.

## **2. Objectives of the policy**

This Policy aims to ensure that the Group satisfies the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 in terms of having in place a policy statement in relation to the additional ‘Safeguards in place where processing Special Category Data’ and data relating to criminal convictions and offences.

## **3. Policy Statement**

### ***Lawfulness, fairness and transparency***

We are satisfied that we will have a legal basis for holding the personal data we hold, and that we will also have a valid legal basis for disclosing this personal data to third parties where this happens. Privacy notices have been drafted to comply with the UK GDPR's requirements (and to reflect the legal basis of processing). Privacy notices are published on Wheatley Housing Group and subsidiary websites and are available in paper copy on request.

### ***Purpose limitation***

The purposes for which data is collected are clearly set out in the relevant privacy notices. This includes reference to further use of data for internal management information purposes. A limited set of data is required for research and archiving purposes; the Group and its subsidiaries have put in place appropriate safeguards for these activities as required by Article 89 of the UK GDPR.

### ***Data minimisation***

The Group use the minimum data to achieve the purposes for which we process the data.

### ***Accuracy***

The Group is continually checking data for accuracy and, where any inaccuracies are discovered, these are promptly corrected and any third party recipients of the inaccurate data notified of the correction.

### ***Lawfulness, fairness and transparency***

The Group only keep personal information for the minimum amount of time necessary. Sometimes this time period is set out in the law, but in most cases it is based on business need. We maintain retention schedules which set out how long we hold different types of information. You can obtain a copy of our retention schedules by emailing us at [InformationRequests@wheatley-group.com](mailto:InformationRequests@wheatley-group.com).

### ***Integrity and confidentiality***

The Group has an approved Data Protection Policy, applicable to all its subsidiaries. These set out roles and responsibilities within the organisation in relation to data protection and information security. All staff are required to take data protection and information security training. Our IT systems have appropriate protective measures in place incorporating defence in depth and the systems are subject to external assessment and validation.

## **4. Disclosure**

The Group is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ('FOISA') and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs'). These provide individuals with the right of access to information held by the Group, including this policy, and any information on matters relating to, or arising out of, this policy.

## **5. Training**

Employees will be made aware of this Policy through Wheatley Group's Data Protection Training and further training and support will be provided to staff, where required, by the Information Governance Team.

## **6. Record keeping**

There are no specific record keeping requirements arising from this policy.

## **7. Policy review**

We will review this Policy every 3 years. More regular reviews will be considered where, for example, there is a need to respond to new legislation or guidance.