

## **GDPR: Implications for research**

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies to any 'personal data' processed by organisations in the EU. It applies to any organisation that processes personal data, regardless of whether the organisation is based in the EU or not. It applies to any organisation that processes personal data, regardless of whether the organisation is based in the EU or not.

However, just as you do now, you will still need to seek initial consent from participants to take part in your research project. This is for ethical or other legal reasons, such as [disclosing confidential information](#) in line with the common law of confidentiality. Consent to participate in research can give participants control over how their data are used.

So participants have dual assurance: the GDPR 'task in the public interest' reassures them that the organisation processes personal data for the public good, and the existing systems by which they consent to participate give them control over how their data is used.

### **Fair and transparent**

As well as being lawful, your research using personal data will need to be fair and transparent.

Fairness includes respecting participants' rights and ensuring that personal data is used in line with their expectations.

Transparency is very important for fairness. There are [new requirements](#) covering the information that needs to be provided to participants. Transparency will be addressed at the corporate level in privacy notices, but also at project level. The materials you provide are often where participants get their understanding of what will be done with their personal data, so you need to be clear and transparent in the detail you give.

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