

Data Protection Policy

Context and overview

Key Details

Approved by board on:	1 st April 2022
Policy became operational on:	1 st April 2022
Next review date:	1 st April 2023

Introduction

Edmund Winder Watts Limited needs to gather and use certain information about individuals.

These can include customers, suppliers, business contacts employees and other people the organisation has a relationship with or may need to contact.

This policy describes how this personal data must be collected, handled and stored to meet the company's data protection standards – and to comply with the law.

Why this policy exists

This data protection policy ensures Edmund Winder Watts Limited:

- Complies with data protection law and follow good practice
- Protects the rights of staff, customers and partners
- Is open about how it stores and processes individuals' data
- Protects itself from the risks of a data breach

Data Protection law

The Data Protection Act 1998 describes how organisations – including Edmund Winder Watts Limited – must collect, handle and store personal information.

These rules apply regardless of whether data is stored electronically, on paper or on other materials.

To comply with the law, personal information must be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed unlawfully.

The Data Protection Act is underpinned by eight important principles. These say that personal data must:

1. Be processed fairly and lawfully
2. Be obtained only for specific, lawful purposes
3. Be adequate, relevant and not excessive

4. Be accurate and kept up to date
5. Not be held for any longer than necessary
6. Processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects
7. Be protected in appropriate ways
8. Not be transferred outside the European Economic Area (EEA), unless that country or territory also ensures an adequate level of protection

People, risks and responsibilities

Policy scope

This policy applies to:

- The head office of Edmund Winder Watts Limited
- All staff of Edmund Winder Watts Limited

It applies to all data that the company holds relating to identifiable individuals, even if that information technically falls outside of the Data Protection Act 1998. This can include:

- Names of Individuals
- Postal addresses
- Email addresses
- Telephone numbers
- Other information relating to individuals

Data protection risks

This policy helps to protect Edmund Winder Watts from some very real data security risks, including:

- Breaches of confidentiality. For instance, information being given out inappropriately.
- Failing to offer choice. For instance, all individuals should be free to choose how the company uses data relating to them.
- Reputational damage. For instance, the company could suffer if hackers successfully gained access to sensitive data.

Responsibilities

Everyone who works for or with Edmund Winder Watts Limited has some responsibility for ensuring data is collected, stored or handled appropriately.

Each person that handles personal data must ensure that it is handled and processed in line with this policy and data protection principles.

However, these people have key areas of responsibility:

- The board of directors is ultimately responsible for ensuring that Edmund Winder Watts Limited meets its legal obligations.
- General Data Protection - All the directors are responsible for:
 - Keeping the other board members updated about data protection responsibilities, risks and issues.
 - Reviewing all data protection procedures and related policies, in line with an agreed schedule.
 - Arranging data protection training and advice for the people covered by this policy.
 - Handling data protection questions from staff and anyone else covered by this policy.
 - Dealing with requests from individuals to see data Edmund Winder Watts Limited holds about them (also called 'subject access requests')
 - Checking and approving any contracts or agreements with third parties that may handle the companies sensitive data.
- IT – All the directors are responsible for:
 - Ensuring all systems, services and equipment used for storing data meet acceptable security standards.
 - Performing regular checks and scans to ensure security hardware and software is functioning properly.
 - Evaluating any third-party services the company is considering using to store or process data. For instance, cloud computing services.
- Marketing – All the directors are responsible for:
 - Approving any data protection statements attached to communications such as emails and letters.
 - Addressing any data protection queries from journalists or media outlets like newspapers.
 - Where necessary, working with other staff to ensure marketing initiatives abide by data protection principles.

General staff guidelines

- The only people able to access data covered by this policy should be those who need it for their work.
- Data should not be shared informally. When access to confidential information is required, employees can request it from the Directors.
- Edmund Winder Watts Limited will provide sufficient training to all employees to help them understand their responsibilities when handling data.
- Employees should keep all data secure, by taking sensible precautions and following the guidelines below.
- In particular, strong passwords must be used and they should never be shared.
- Personal data should not be disclosed to unauthorised people, either within the company or externally.
- Data should be regularly reviewed and updated if it is found to be out of date. If no longer required, it should be deleted and disposed of.
- Employees should request help from a director if they are unsure about any aspect of data protection.

Data Storage

These rules describe how and where data should be safely stored. Questions about storing data safely can be directed to the directors.

When data is stored on paper, it should be kept in a secure place where unauthorised people cannot see it.

These guidelines also apply to data that is usually stored electronically but has been printed out for some reason:

- When not required, the paper or files should be kept in the locked fire safe.
- Employees should make sure paper and printouts are not left where unauthorised people could see them, like on a printer.
- Data printouts should be disposed of securely when no longer required.

When data is stored electronically, it must be protected from unauthorised access, accidental deletion and malicious hacking attempts:

- Data should be protected by strong passwords that are changed regularly and never shared between employees.
- All data stored on removable media, should be kept locked in the fire safe.
- Data should only be stored on designated drives and servers.
- Data should be backed up frequently. Those backups should be tested regularly, in line with the company standard back up procedures.
- Data should never be saved directly to laptops or other mobile devices.
- All servers and computers containing data should be protected by approved security software and a firewall.

Data Use

Personal data is of no value to Edmund Winder Watts Limited unless the business can make use of it. However, it is when personal data is accessed and used that it can be at the greatest risk of loss, corruption or theft:

- When working with personal data, employees should ensure the screens of there are always locked when left attended.
- Personal data should not be shared informally. In particular, it should never be sent by email, as this form of communication is not secure.
- Personal data should never be transferred outside the European Economic Area.
- Employees should not save copies of personal data to their own computers. Always access and update the central copy of any data.

Data Accuracy

The law requires Edmund Winder Watts to take reasonable steps to ensure data is kept accurate and up to date.

The more important it is that the personal data is accurate, the greater the effort Edmund Winder Watts Limited should put into ensuring its accuracy.

It is the responsibility of all employees who work with data to take reasonable steps to ensure it is kept as accurate and up to date as possible.

- Data will be held in as few places as necessary. Staff should not create any unnecessary additional data sets.
- Staff should take every opportunity to ensure that data is updated, For instance, by confirming a customer's details when they call.
- Edmund Winder Watts Limited will make it easy for data subjects to update the information Edmund Winder Watts Limited holds about them.
- Data should be updated as inaccuracies are discovered. For instance, if a customer can no longer be reached on their stored telephone number, it should be removed from the database.

Subject access requests

All individuals who are subject of personal data held by Edmund Winder Watts Limited are entitled to:

- Ask what information the company holds about them and why.
- Ask how to gain access to it.
- Be informed how to keep it up to date.
- Be informed how the company is meeting its data protection obligations.

If an individual contacts the company requesting information, this is called a subject access request.

Subject access requests from individuals should be made by email, addressed to the data controller at edmund@winderwatts.co.uk. A standard request form can then be supplied to the individual.

Individuals will be charged £20.00 per subject access request. The relevant data should be supplied within 14 days.

The identity of anyone making a subject access request will always be verified before handing over any information.

Disclosing data for other reasons

In certain circumstances, the Data Protection Act allows personal data to be disclosed to law enforcement agencies without the consent of the data subject.

Under these circumstances, Edmund Winder Watts Limited will disclose requested data. However the legitimacy of the request must be confirmed.

Providing information

Edmund Winder Watts Limited aim to ensure that individuals are aware that their data is being processed, and that they understand:

- How the data is being used
- How to exercise their rights

A copy of this data protection policy should therefore be available on request.