



Data Protection Act 2018

2018 CHAPTER 12

PART 6

ENFORCEMENT

Offences relating to personal data

172 Re-identification: effectiveness testing conditions

- (1) For the purposes of section 171, in relation to a person who re-identifies information that is de-identified personal data, “the effectiveness testing conditions” means the conditions in subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) The first condition is that the person acted—
 - (a) with a view to testing the effectiveness of the de-identification of personal data,
 - (b) without intending to cause, or threaten to cause, damage or distress to a person, and
 - (c) in the reasonable belief that, in the particular circumstances, re-identifying the information was justified as being in the public interest.
- (3) The second condition is that the person notified the Commissioner or the controller responsible for de-identifying the personal data about the re-identification—
 - (a) without undue delay, and
 - (b) where feasible, not later than 72 hours after becoming aware of it.
- (4) Where there is more than one controller responsible for de-identifying personal data, the requirement in subsection (3) is satisfied if one or more of them is notified.

Changes to legislation:

Data Protection Act 2018, Section 172 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 13A inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 31\(4\)](#)
- s. 204(1)(l) inserted by [S.I. 2024/374 Sch. 5 para. 7](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 8(1)(y) added by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 78\(3\)](#)