

Privacy & Data Protection

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Headlines

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- Bank embraces data protection audit in Sweden, p.20

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Polish case sets standard for publicising privacy notes

The Polish data protection regulator has issued its first GDPR fine, penalising an unnamed firm £187,000 (€220,000) for scraping public data on individuals, and reusing it commercially without notifying them.

The company is said to have taken personally identifiable information on over six million Polish citizens from the country's Central Electronic Register and Information on Economic Activity. However, it only informed the 90,000 individuals it had email addresses for, claiming that 'high operational costs' prevented it

from doing more.

According to the Polish Supervisory Authority, the UODO, the firm should have used the postal addresses and telephone numbers it had to notify individuals about the data it used, the source of their data, the purpose and the period of the planned data processing, and their rights under the GDPR.

Organisations processing personal data are obliged to provide people to whom the data relates with information about that data processing. Specific information

requirements are set out in Article 14 of the GDPR for cases where the personal data organisations gather have not been obtained from the data subject, such as where they have been collected from public sources of information.

According to the European Data Protection Board's summary of the case:

"Many people whose data were processed by the company were not aware of this. The controller did not inform them

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Online platforms to face new duty of care in the UK

A new statutory duty of care will be imposed on online platforms operating in the UK under plans outlined by the government.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Home Office opened a joint consultation on the proposals, which will eventually form legislation.

According to the proposals, the new duty of care would compel com-

panies to 'take reasonable steps to keep users safe, and prevent other persons coming to harm as a direct consequence of activity on their services'.

Social media platforms, file hosting sites, online discussion boards, messaging services and search engines, as well as other businesses that 'allow users to share or discover user-generated content or interact with

each other online', will be subject to the new duty.

The government said it has yet to decide whether to expand the remit and functions of an existing authority or to establish a new body to monitor and enforce compliance.

However, it said the regulator will be given 'a suite of powers to take effective enforcement

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