

Procedure for data subjects to exercise their data protection rights

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Author/Originator: Hilary Pook, DPO	Version: V1.00 Review date: May 2027
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The General Council of the Bar (GCB) is committed to meeting its data protection obligations and ensuring that the six data protection principles set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) are followed when we handle personal data.

The UK GDPR sets out a number of rights data subjects have in relation to the handling of their personal data. This procedure sets out how GCB aims to respond to requests to exercise these rights.

- 1.2. This procedure aims to:
- Explain how you can request to exercise your rights under the UK GDPR
 - Help us to respond to those requests swiftly and efficiently.

2. Exercising data subjects' rights

- 2.1. This section describes the rights available to data subjects concerning their personal data and outlines our procedures to respond to all related requests.

Subject Access Requests (SARs)

- 2.2. A SAR (or 'DSAR' – Data Subject Access Request) is a request made by or on behalf of an individual for the information which he or she is entitled to ask for under Article 15 of the UK GDPR. This means you have the right to be told what personal information the Bar Council and/or the Bar Standards Board (BSB) is holding about you and, unless an exemption applies, to receive a copy of that information. You are also entitled to know:

- The purpose of the processing
- The categories of personal data concerned
- The recipients your data has or might be shared with (unless providing specific recipients would be impossible or it would be excessive to do so)
- Where possible, how long your data will be held (including the SAR response), or the criteria for determining how long data will be held.
- The source of the personal data if it is not direct from you
- Whether your personal data has been subject to any automatic decision-making
- Any safeguards in place for any international transfers of your data.
- Your data protection rights, including the right to complain.

- 2.3. You have the right to see your own personal data, but not necessarily to see copies of documents that include that personal data. You are also not entitled to personal data relating to other people.

- 2.4. Various exemptions to the right of subject access apply in certain circumstances or to certain types of personal data. For example, personal data may be subject to legal

professional privilege, or it may be confidential for another reason. If any exemptions apply to your personal data, we will explain this in our response to your request.

- 2.5. When making a subject access request, it helps us to respond promptly the more information you can give us about the information you want. For example, if the information you want relates to a specific event or matter it helps if you tell us that, rather than asking for all the personal data we hold about you. And a date range always helps too.

The right to rectification

- 2.6. If personal data is inaccurate or incomplete, you have the right to have inaccurate data rectified without undue delay and, taking into account the purposes of processing, to have incomplete data completed.
- 2.7. We will consider all requests for rectification on a case by case basis and provide a full explanation of the extent to which requests can be fulfilled. In a situation where an individual has reported the conduct of a barrister, for example, the barrister may ask for the report to be amended because they say it is inaccurate. However, it will be for the BSB's investigation to establish whether the data is inaccurate or not. In those circumstances, the data would not be amended, but we may accept a supplementary statement from the barrister about the accuracy of the data.
- 2.8. If we do rectify personal data and that data has been shared with a third party, we will inform the third party about the rectification without undue delay.

The right to erasure (the 'right to be forgotten')

- 2.9. You have the right to have your personal data erased:
- when the data is no longer needed for the purposes it was collected, or
 - where you withdraw your consent and there is no other lawful basis for processing, and
 - in some other specific circumstances.
- 2.10. We consider all requests for personal data to be erased on a case by case basis and provide a full explanation of the extent to which requests can be fulfilled. This right does not apply when the lawful basis for processing that data is for the "performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller".

The right to restrict processing

- 2.11. You have the right to ask us to restrict processing of your personal data where:
- you contest the accuracy of the data. Processing is restricted for the time it takes us to verify the accuracy;
 - the processing is unlawful, but you don't want the data erased and request restriction of the processing of the data instead;
 - we no longer need to keep the personal data, but you need it to be kept in relation to a legal claim;
 - You have objected to the processing of your data and the processing is restricted pending verification of our legitimate grounds for processing the data.

- 2.12. Where processing has been restricted, we can only store the data, and some other limited processing, unless you give consent to further processing.
- 2.13. We must inform you before any restriction to processing is lifted.

The right to data portability

- 2.14. You have the right to receive personal data you provided to us in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable format, but only where the basis for processing is “consent” or “the performance of a contract”, and where the processing is carried out by automated means. If asked we, as the data controller, have to pass this to another data controller where this is technically feasible. The right does not apply when processing is on the basis of “performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller”.

The right to object to processing

- 2.15. You have the right to object to processing when the lawful basis of processing is:
- the “performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller” or
 - “legitimate interests”

Where you object to processing, we can no longer process the personal data, unless we can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds for doing so, which outweigh your rights and freedoms.

- 2.16. In addition, you have the right to object to your personal data being processed for direct marketing purposes and the personal data can then no longer be processed for those purposes.

The right not to be subject to solely automated decision-making

- 2.17. You have the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing where this produces legal effects concerning you or significantly affects you. Currently, we do not make any decisions based solely on automated processing. Any procedures involving automated processing will include a human element.

The right to withdraw consent

- 2.18. If we are processing your data on the basis of your consent, you can withdraw that consent at any time (this will usually be for the purposes of communications, such as email newsletters).
- 2.19. If you receive an email newsletter from us and no longer wish to receive it, you should find an ‘unsubscribe’ option at the end of the email (except for Regulatory Update sent to practising barristers).
- 2.20. If you have an account on ‘MyBar’ you can log on and change your communications preferences at any time. You can also ask the Barrister Records Team to amend these for you by emailing Records@BarCouncil.org.uk or writing to them at the address below.
- 2.21. If you withdraw consent, we will ensure that we no longer process your data for that purpose as quickly as possible.

3. Who can make a request to exercise a right?

- 3.1. A request to exercise a data protection right can be made by anyone whose personal data is processed by the General Council of the Bar. If you want to make a request on someone else's behalf, we would need their permission to deal with you, and we may need to ask for proof of ID. We will respond to all requests to exercise data protection rights, although we may not always agree to do what is requested.

4. When can a data protection request be made?

- 4.1. Data subjects can make requests to exercise their rights at any time, but if the request relates to a specific issue or problem, the request should be made as soon as possible after the problem was discovered or the event that has led to the request occurred.

5. Requests process

- 5.1. Data protection requests can be addressed to the person you have been dealing with, or to the Data Protection Officer who keeps records of all formal requests.
- 5.2. Requests can be made verbally, but if they are made by telephone, we will ask you to put it in writing if you can. This helps to ensure we get the correct details of the request. However, if we do take the details down over the telephone, we will send you a copy of the request to ensure we have taken it down correctly.
- 5.3. If you send us your request and we do not have all the information we need in order to respond, we may ask you for clarification when we acknowledge receipt of your request. The statutory timescale for rights requests is one month, but if the request is particularly complex, especially subject access requests, we may need to extend that period by up to a further two months.

- 5.4. The address is:

FAO: Data Protection Officer
General Council of the Bar
289-293 High Holborn
London WC1V 7HZ

Email: Privacy@BarCouncil.org.uk

Phone: 020 7611 1398

Before we deal with your complaint, we will log it for monitoring and management information purposes.

6. Response to Data Protection Requests

- 6.1. Either the Data Protection Officer or a member of the BSB's Data Protection Team will deal with your request, as appropriate. They will acknowledge your request and advise you about how it will be treated in terms of data subjects' rights and when they expect to respond.

- 6.2. You should receive a full response within the timescale given. If there is any delay, we will update you.

7. Review

- 7.1. If you are dissatisfied with how we have dealt with a request to exercise your data subjects' rights, you can make a complaint. See [our complaints procedure](#).
- 7.2. If you remain dissatisfied after we have considered your complaint, you can complaint to the Information Commissioner. See the ICO's website for details: [Make a complaint about how an organisation has used your personal information | ICO](#)