

Privacy & Data Protection

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- Uber reaches settlement over 'Godview' complaints, p.18
- Germany publishes English version of its new data protection legislation, p.20

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ICO ruffles feathers with latest GDPR 'myth buster'

The Deputy Commissioner for Policy at the Information Commissioner's Office, Steve Wood, has intrigued data protection practitioners with the ICO's latest offering in its series aimed at addressing some major misconceptions surrounding the incoming data protection rules.

Mr Wood was tackling the proposed myth that the GDPR is 'an unnecessary burden on organisations'. The Deputy stated that the new regime is an evolution, rather than a revolution, in data protection.

"Let's start off by being totally up front here. Any Regulation has some sort of impact on an organisation's resources. That's unavoidable and GDPR is no different to any other new legislation in that respect. But thinking about burden indicates the wrong mindset to preparing for GDPR compliance," he said.

He continued: "Many of the fundamentals remain the same and have been known about for a long time...That doesn't mean there's any room for complacency. There are new provisions to comply with and organisations should

start making preparations now, if they haven't done so already. But by and large, the new GDPR regime represents a step change, rather than a leap into the unknown."

Referring to the criticism of the GDPR regarding the perceived burdens it will place on SMEs and smaller organisations, he said that the ICO has "long recognised that SMEs may have limited time and resources for compliance and have acknowledged this in our regulatory approach".

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UK seeks adequacy-style decision from EU

The UK is seeking a deal with the EU based on the existing adequacy model to enable the continued free exchange of personal data following Brexit.

In the latest of a series of position papers by UK ministers on Britain's future relationship with the EU, the government called for the early mutual recognition of both sides' data protection regimes. It also wants the Information

Commissioner's Office to have a continued role working with European regulators. The government said that the UK had played an important role in setting EU rules on data protection, and it would leave the bloc with regulations aligned.

The UK government recently confirmed that it intends to introduce draft data protection legislation as soon as it as it

can after the Summer Parliamentary recess. Parliament is due to return on 5th September, before breaking up again on 14th September for the Autumn party political conferences, leaving a one-week window of opportunity.

At first sight, the current proposals for the Bill do not go further than what

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