

AHCS Policy

# Data Protection

## including Publication Scheme

how the AHCS uses and safeguards personal information and discloses information about its operation

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## Introduction

The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) collects information about people with whom it deals in order to carry out its business and provide its services. Such people include applicants and registrants, employees (present, past and prospective), suppliers and other business contacts.

The information we collect includes personal and, sensitive information, and we may occasionally be required to collect and use certain types of such information to comply with the requirements of the law.

No matter how it is collected, recorded and used (e.g. on a computer or on paper) this information will be dealt with properly to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (the Act) which is the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The lawful and proper treatment of personal and sensitive information by the Academy for Healthcare Science is extremely important to the success of our business and to maintain the confidence of our service users and employees. We ensure the Academy for Healthcare Science treats personal and sensitive information lawfully and correctly.

## Data Protection Principles

The Academy for Healthcare Science fully supports and complies with the data protection principles of the Act which are that information is:

- used fairly, lawfully and transparently
- used for specified, explicit purposes
- used in a way that is adequate, relevant and limited to only what is necessary
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept for no longer than is necessary
- handled in a way that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unlawful or unauthorised processing, access, loss, destruction or damage

## Data Controller

Any information provided is controlled by the Academy for Healthcare Science.

The Academy for Healthcare Science will:

- Ensure that there is always one person with overall responsibility for data protection
- Provide training for all staff members who handle personal and sensitive information
- Provide clear lines of reporting and supervision for compliance with data protection.

## Personal information

Users of the AHCS website, including the online platform which supports applications for registration and equivalence, are asked to submit personal and sensitive information to receive or use our services, including the processing of applications for registration and equivalence, details of events, receipt of newsletters and other publications, information and advice.

By giving us your personal information, you are consenting to the processing of your information by AHCS and its agents in accordance with this Data Protection Policy.

You may also provide personal information to us when you contact us by email, telephone or letter. When you provide such information, we will treat your information in accordance with this policy. AHCS will, always, act in accordance with current legislation and aim to meet current Internet best practice.

## Use and storage of personal information

When any personal information by you or about you is supplied to AHCS we have legal obligations towards you in the way we deal with that information. We must collect the information fairly, that is, we must explain how we will use it. This Data Protection Policy explains how we will use your personal information.

We will use personal information provided by you or gathered by AHCS about you for the following purposes:

- To process and respond to requests, enquiries and complaints received from you;
- To provide services requested by you;
- To communicate with you about services provided to you;
- To update our records;
- To analyse trends and profiles;
- For audit purposes;
- To carry out customer satisfaction research;
- To prevent or detect fraud;
- To recommend products and services that we believe will be of interest to you;
- To enable third parties to carry out any of the purposes above on our behalf.

If you are notified that your personal information may be used to allow AHCS to contact you for 'service administration purposes', this means that AHCS may contact you for a number of purposes related to the service you have signed up for. For example, we may wish to provide you with password reminders or notify you that the particular service has been suspended or changed.

We will not contact you for promotional purposes unless you specifically agree to be contacted for such purposes at the time you submit your information, or at a later time if you sign up specifically to receive such promotional information.

We will hold your personal information on our systems for as long as is necessary for the purposes set out above and we will remove it when the purposes have been met, unless you opt in to future communications with us.

In the interests of patient and public safety we will retain, for seven years, the personal information of registrants who are removed from the public register under the Fitness to Practise Rules or who allow their registration to lapse.

Where you have opted-in to future communications, we will, on each subsequent communication, offer you an easily executable 'opt out' option, which will allow you to remove yourself from any future mailings.

## Sharing of your personal information

AHCS may share your personal information with third parties in the following ways:

- using agents and service providers to process personal information on our behalf. For example, to perform administrative services, to carry out credit checks and to maintain our IT systems. Where we use agents and service providers to process your personal information, we will ensure they have adequate security measures in place and are governed by our policies in respect of the use of your personal information.
- when we are required to do so by law.
- when you have given your consent to share information.

We may share aggregated and anonymized information with government departments and government bodies that provide funding to AHCS or have an interest in AHCS's activities e.g. for workforce analysis purposes. We will not share personal information

AHCS may occasionally present a promotion that is sponsored by a third-party company. To qualify for entry, we may ask you to provide personal information. If we plan to share that information with the sponsor(s) we will make this clear at the point of collection of your information.

## Access to your personal information

You have the right to request a copy of the personal information AHCS holds about you and to have any inaccuracies corrected. We will ask for confirmation of identity before we disclose any personal information and may charge a £10 administration fee to process the request. Please address requests to:

The Data Protection Officer, Academy for Healthcare Science, 6 The Terrace, Rugby Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4BW.

## Governing Law

These terms and conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales. Any dispute arising under these terms and conditions shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales. Visit the Information Commissioner's website ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)) for more information on UK data protection.

The Academy for Healthcare Science Limited is registered with the Information Commissioner, reference ZA298616.

## AHCS Staff Responsibilities

All staff of the Academy for Healthcare Science are covered by the scope of this document. This includes contractors, temporary staff, secondees, interns and all permanent employees. All staff will, through appropriate training and responsible management:

- Observe all forms of guidance, codes of practice and procedures about the collection and use of personal information.
- Understand fully the purposes for which the Academy for Healthcare Science uses personal information.

- Collect and process appropriate information only in accordance with the purposes for which it is to be used by the Academy for Healthcare Science, to meet its service needs or legal requirements.
- Ensure the information is correctly input into the Academy for Healthcare Science's systems.
- Ensure the information is destroyed (in accordance with the provisions of the Act) when it is no longer required.
- On receipt of a request from an individual for information held about them, (by or on behalf of them), immediately notify their line manager.
- Not send any personal information outside of the United Kingdom without the knowledge and consent of a senior manager.
- Understand that breaches of this Policy may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal.

## Distribution and implementation

This document will be made available via the Academy for Healthcare Science website and directly on a personal basis to all AHCS employees, consultants and contractors.

A training needs analysis will be undertaken with staff affected by this document, with appropriate training being provided to staff as necessary.

## Monitoring

Compliance with the policies and procedures laid down in this document will be monitored via the AHCS Head of Registration Services, together with independent reviews by both internal and external audit on a periodic basis.

The AHCS Head of Registration Services is responsible for the monitoring, revision and updating of this document.

## Implementation and Equality impact assessment

This document forms part of the Academy for Healthcare Science's aim to create a positive culture of respect for all staff and service users. The intention is to identify, remove or minimise discriminatory practice in relation to the protected characteristics (race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, age, religious or other belief, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment and pregnancy and maternity), as well as to promote positive practice and a valuing of the diversity of all individuals and communities.

As part of its development this document and its impact on equality has been analysed and no detriment identified.

## Freedom of Information

The Academy for Healthcare Science is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents)). However, it is our aspiration that the Healthcare Science groups that we register will be subject to Statutory Regulation, in which case we would be covered by the FOIA, and as far as possible we intend to act as if the FOIA already applied to the Academy.

## AHCS Publication Scheme

This publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Management Board of the Academy for Healthcare Science and is based upon the Model Publication Scheme produced by the Information Commissioner's Office.

The publication scheme commits us to make information available to the public as part of our normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by us. Additional

assistance is provided relating to the definition of these classes in guidance issued by the Academy for Healthcare Science Board.

This Publication Scheme commits the Academy:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the Academy and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the Academy and falls within the classifications below.
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- To review and update on a regular basis the information the Academy makes available under this scheme.
- To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- To make this publication scheme available to the public.
- To publish any dataset held by the Academy that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds unless we are satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so; to publish the dataset, where reasonably practicable, in an electronic form that is capable of re-use; and, if any information in the dataset is a relevant copyright work and the Academy is the only owner, to make the information available for re-use under a specified licence. The term 'dataset' is as defined in section 11(5) of the Freedom of Information Act ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents)). The terms 'relevant copyright work' and 'specified licence' are as defined in section 19(8) of that Act.

## Classes of information

### Who we are and what we do

Here ([www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk)) we will proactively publish information relating to our organisation, our senior staff, how you can contact us, our priorities and scope of ambition and information relating to constitutional and legal governance.

### What our priorities are and how we are doing

Here ([www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk)) we will publish information relating to strategy and performance, future plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.

### How we make decisions

Here ([www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk)) we will publish policy proposals and decisions; information about our decision-making processes and procedures and external consultations.

### Our policies and procedures

Here ([www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk)) we will publish our protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities and a full list of policies and procedures.

### Lists and registers

Here ([www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk)) we will publish information in registers we are required to hold by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the Academy.

### The services we offer

Here ([www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk)) we will publish advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases relating to the services we offer.

The classes of information will **not** generally include:

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or where, if the Academy were subject to it, an exemption might be available under the FOIA or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
- Information in draft form.
- Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

## The method by which information published under this Scheme will be made available

The Academy will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of the Academy, information will be provided on a website. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information via the website, the Academy will set out how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where an authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

## Charges which may be made for information published under this scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the Academy for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge.

Charges may be made for information as indicated below. Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- Photocopying
- Postage and packaging
- The costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information.

Charges may also be made for making datasets (or parts of datasets) that are relevant copyright works available for re-use.

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment may be requested prior to provision of the information.

## Written requests

Information held by the Academy that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its disclosure will be considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you ask us in writing for information which is not disclosed through our Publication Scheme we aim to respond to you within 20 working days of receipt of the request unless there are special circumstances which we will inform you about.

While there is an assumption of disclosure contained within the legislation there are also limited circumstances in which organisations are able to claim exemptions from disclosure. When we are of the view that such exemptions might be engaged were we subject to the Act, we will inform you in accordance using the proscribed format. If you disagree with any decision we may make not to disclose information you may ask us to conduct an internal review of that decision.

If you wish to make a request for information not routinely and proactively published through our Publication Scheme please contact:

Academy for Healthcare Science

6 The Terrace

Rugby Road

Lutterworth

Leicestershire LE17 4BW

Phone: 01455 244640

Email: [admin@ahcs.ac.uk](mailto:admin@ahcs.ac.uk)