

# **Scottish Culture and Traditions (SC&T) Privacy Policy and GDPR**

## **Compliance**

Date Approved 31/01/2026 (replacing the SC&T Data Protection Policy approved by the SC&T board on 25/1/18)

## **Purpose**

To comply with relevant legislation in respect of the personal data SC&T holds about individuals, follow comprehensive but proportionate governance measures and protect the organisation from the consequences of a breach of its responsibilities.

## **Summary**

Responsibilities and measures to ensure security of data held by SC&T, including purposes for which data can be held, for how long, and identification of key risks.

# SC&T

## Privacy Policy

Data Controller (Organisation): Scottish Culture & Traditions, % The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, MacRobert Building, King St., Aberdeen

Office of the Information Commissioner Registration Number Z7067251

### Scope of policy

This policy covers all personal data/information processed by the organisation and applies to:

- all employees of SC&T
- the SC&T board
- consultants and self-employed tutors and administrators contracted by SC&T.
- volunteers

### Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to enable SC&T to:

- comply with relevant legislation in respect of the data it holds about individuals
- follow good governance measures
- protect the organisation from the consequences of a breach of its responsibilities.

### Policy statement

The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) determine how personal data should be handled. If information is collected for any reason other than personal, family or household purposes, the legislation needs to be complied with.

This policy sets out how SC&T will collect, store, process and dispose of personal data acquired as part of its activities. It complements and expands SC&T's [Privacy Policy](#).

SC&T is committed to:

- implementing appropriate technical and organisational measures as well as providing support for staff and volunteers who handle personal data, so that they can act confidently, consistently and transparently in minimising and, where appropriate, pseudonymising data
- maintaining relevant documentation on data processing activities
- using data protection impact assessments where appropriate

- supporting its Data Protection Officer in raising awareness of this policy within the organisation and assisting with its implementation.

### **Brief introduction to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The GDPR provides the following rights for individuals:

1. The right to be informed which encompasses our obligation to provide 'fair processing information' typically through a privacy notice. It emphasises the need for transparency over how we use personal data.
2. The right of access, offering individuals a right to access personal data and supplementary information.
3. The right to rectification enabling individuals to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.
4. The right to erasure, also known as 'the right to be forgotten', whereby an individual can request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.
5. The right to restrict processing, whereby individuals may 'block' or suppress processing of personal data. When processing is restricted, we are permitted to store the personal data, but not further process it.
6. The right to data portability which allows individuals to obtain and reuse their personal data for their own purposes across different services, when processing is carried out by an automated means.
7. The right to object, whereby individuals may object to processing based on legitimate interests.
8. Rights related to automated decision-making including profiling.

The GDPR requires that any personal data held should be:

- Processed only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Processed fairly, lawfully and transparently
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Accurate and kept up to date
- Kept for no longer than is necessary where data subjects are identified
- Processed securely and protected against accidental loss, destruction or damage.

## **Purposes for which personal data may be held**

### **General**

Depending on the relationship with the individual concerned, we will gather, use and share personal information for specific purposes, namely;-

- To operate and administer our services;
- To administer payments to and from individuals;
- To comply with our legal obligations;
- To support vulnerable groups
- To market events and services.

### **Employees**

Personal data relating to employees may be collected primarily for the purposes of:

- recruitment, promotion, training, redeployment, and/or career development
- administration and payment of wages and sick pay
- calculation of certain benefits including pensions
- disciplinary or performance management purposes
- performance review
- recording of communication with employees and their representatives
- compliance with legislation
- provision of references to financial institutions, to facilitate entry onto educational courses and/or to assist future potential employers; and educational courses and/or to assist future potential employers
- staffing levels and career planning

The organisation considers that the following personal data falls within the categories set out above:

- personal details including name, address, age (date of birth), status and qualifications. Where specific monitoring systems are in place, ethnic origin, disability and nationality will also be deemed as relevant
- references and CVs
- emergency contact details

- notes on discussions between management and the employee
- appraisals and documents relating to grievance, discipline, promotion, demotion, or termination of employment
- training records
- salary, benefits and bank/building society details
- absence and sickness information
- pension information

Employees will be informed about data protection issues, and their rights to access their own personal data.

Employees, or potential employees, will be advised of the personal data which has been obtained or retained, its source, the purposes for which the personal data may be used, or to whom it may be disclosed. The organisation will regularly review the nature of the information collected and held to ensure there is a sound business reason for requiring the information to be retained.

### **Disclosure**

Subject always to the GDPR and any supervening legislation, SC&T may share data with other agencies such as the local authority, funding bodies and other voluntary agencies. Where we are sharing data with other organisations, it will normally be shared as aggregated data showcasing our activities and pseudonymised or anonymised to ensure that individuals data cannot be identified.

Where, exceptionally, individual data needs to be shared, the Individual/Participant will normally be made aware how and with whom their information will be shared.

When collecting data, SC&T will ensure that the Individual/Participant:-

- a) Clearly understands why the information is needed
- b) Understands what it will be used for and what the consequences are should the Individual/Participant decide not to give consent to processing
- c) As far as reasonably possible, grants explicit consent, either written or verbal for data to be processed
- d) Is, as far as reasonably practicable, competent enough to give consent and has given so freely without any duress
- e) Has received sufficient information on why their data is needed and how it will be used

There are circumstances where the law allows SC&T to disclose data (including sensitive data) without the data subject's consent. These are:

- a) Carrying out a legal duty or as authorised by the Secretary of State
- b) Protecting vital interests of a Individual/Participant or other person
- c) The Individual/Participant has already made the information public
- d) Conducting any legal proceedings, obtaining legal advice or defending any legal rights
- e) Monitoring for equal opportunities purposes – i.e. race, disability or religion
- f) Providing a confidential service where the Individual/Participant's consent cannot be obtained or where it is reasonable to proceed without consent: e.g. where we would wish to avoid forcing stressed or ill Individuals/Participants to provide consent signatures.

### **Retention of Records**

The organisation follows the retention periods recommended by the Information Commissioner in its Employment Practices Data Protection Code. These are as follows, in the absence of a specific business case supporting a longer retention period.

| Data Type                                      | Retention period                                 |
|--|--|
| Application form                               | Duration of employment                           |
| References received                            | 1 year   |
| Payroll and tax information                    | 6 years  |
| Personnel records                              | 6 years  |
| Records relating to accident or injury at work | 3 years from date of last entry in accident book |

Board members and staff must ensure that the Data Protection Officer is informed of any changes in their uses of personal data that might affect the organisation's notification to the ICO.

### **Key Risk**

SC&T has identified personal data breach as a potential key risk, which this policy is designed to mitigate. A personal data breach means a breach of security leading to accidental or lawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. Personal data breaches can include:

- Access by an unauthorised third party
- Deliberate or accidental action (or inaction) by a controller or processor

- Sending personal data to an incorrect recipient
- Computing devices containing personal data being lost or stolen
- Alteration of personal data without permission
- Failure to store data in line with this policy and its retention schedules
- Loss of availability of personal data SC&T MUST report a notifiable breach to the ICO without undue delay, but not later than 72 hours after becoming aware of it.

## **Security**

Security must not be confused with confidentiality. Confidentiality is concerned with the level of information which may be divulged. Security maintains those boundaries. SC&T will:

- Carry out a risk assessment of data systems and act on results on an annual basis
- Maintain up-to-date security systems (for example using firewalls and encryption technology)
- Restrict access to personal data to those that need it
- Train staff, board members and, where necessary, sub-contractors on data security
- Review data security regularly
- Ensure all personal is non-recoverable from any computer system previously used within the organisation, which has been passed on/sold to a third party.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Trustees**

The Board of SC&T recognises its overall responsibility for ensuring that SC&T complies with its legal obligations.

### **Data Protection Officer**

The Data Protection Officer has the following responsibilities:

- Briefing the Trustees on Data Protection responsibilities
- Reviewing Data Protection and related policies
- Advising other staff on Data Protection issues
- Ensuring that Data Protection induction and training takes place
- Notification of data breaches

### **Specific Responsibilities of Staff**

The Chair or Vice-chair of SC&T may:

- Handle subject access requests (SAR's)
- Approve unusual or controversial disclosures of personal data

All staff are required to read, understand and accept any policies and procedures that relate to the personal data they may handle in the course of their work.

It should be noted that data processed in connection with SC&T's PVG scheme is retained separately and disclosure records are only accessible to the board .

### **Enforcement**

Significant breaches of this policy, if appropriate, will be handled under SC&T's disciplinary procedures.

Compliance with this policy is a condition of employment and any deliberate breach of this policy will result in disciplinary action which may include dismissal and possible legal action.

### **Guidance**

Further guidance on the processing of data may be requested from our Data Protection Officer by mailing [dpo@scottishculture.org](mailto:dpo@scottishculture.org) , and our privacy notice is available at [www.scottishculture.org/about/privacy-policy](http://www.scottishculture.org/about/privacy-policy).

***Approved by the SC&T Finance and Admin. Sub-committee 31 January 2026***