



Data Protection Act 2018

2018 CHAPTER 12

PART 6

ENFORCEMENT

Complaints

165 Complaints by data subjects

- (1) Articles 57(1)(f) and (2) and 77 of the [F1UK GDPR] (data subject's right to lodge a complaint) confer rights on data subjects to complain to the Commissioner if the data subject considers that, in connection with personal data relating to him or her, there is an infringement of the [F1UK GDPR].
- (2) A data subject may make a complaint to the Commissioner if the data subject considers that, in connection with personal data relating to him or her, there is an infringement of Part 3 or 4 of this Act.
- (3) The Commissioner must facilitate the making of complaints under subsection (2) by taking steps such as providing a complaint form which can be completed electronically and by other means.
- (4) If the Commissioner receives a complaint under subsection (2), the Commissioner must—
 - (a) take appropriate steps to respond to the complaint,
 - (b) inform the complainant of the outcome of the complaint,
 - (c) inform the complainant of the rights under section 166, and
 - (d) if asked to do so by the complainant, provide the complainant with further information about how to pursue the complaint.
- (5) The reference in subsection (4)(a) to taking appropriate steps in response to a complaint includes—
 - (a) investigating the subject matter of the complaint, to the extent appropriate, and

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- (b) informing the complainant about progress on the complaint, including about whether further investigation or co-ordination with [^{F2}a] foreign designated authority is necessary.

^{F3}(6)

(7) In this section—

“foreign designated authority” means an authority designated for the purposes of Article 13 of the Data Protection Convention by a party, other than the United Kingdom, which is bound by that Convention;

^{F4} ...

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 165(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/419), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 66(2)** (with reg. 5); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F2** Word in s. 165(5)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/419), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 66(3)** (with reg. 5); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F3** S. 165(6) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/419), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 66(4)** (with reg. 5); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F4** Words in s. 165(7) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/419), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 66(5)** (with reg. 5); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

166 Orders to progress complaints

- (1) This section applies where, after a data subject makes a complaint under section 165 or Article 77 of the [^{F5}UK GDPR], the Commissioner—
- fails to take appropriate steps to respond to the complaint,
 - fails to provide the complainant with information about progress on the complaint, or of the outcome of the complaint, before the end of the period of 3 months beginning when the Commissioner received the complaint, or
 - if the Commissioner's consideration of the complaint is not concluded during that period, fails to provide the complainant with such information during a subsequent period of 3 months.
- (2) The Tribunal may, on an application by the data subject, make an order requiring the Commissioner—
- to take appropriate steps to respond to the complaint, or
 - to inform the complainant of progress on the complaint, or of the outcome of the complaint, within a period specified in the order.
- (3) An order under subsection (2)(a) may require the Commissioner—
- to take steps specified in the order;
 - to conclude an investigation, or take a specified step, within a period specified in the order.
- (4) Section 165(5) applies for the purposes of subsections (1)(a) and (2)(a) as it applies for the purposes of section 165(4)(a).

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Textual Amendments

- F5** Words in s. 166(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/419\)](#), reg. 1(2), [Sch. 2 para. 67](#) (with reg. 5); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 3 para. 8(1)(y) added by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 78\(3\)](#)