



Data Protection Act 2018

2018 CHAPTER 12

PART 6

ENFORCEMENT

Assessment notices

146 Assessment notices

- (1) The Commissioner may by written notice (an “assessment notice”) require a controller or processor to permit the Commissioner to carry out an assessment of whether the controller or processor has complied or is complying with the data protection legislation.
- (2) An assessment notice may require the controller or processor to do any of the following—
 - (a) permit the Commissioner to enter specified premises;
 - (b) direct the Commissioner to documents on the premises that are of a specified description;
 - (c) assist the Commissioner to view information of a specified description that is capable of being viewed using equipment on the premises;
 - (d) comply with a request from the Commissioner for a copy (in such form as may be requested) of—
 - (i) the documents to which the Commissioner is directed;
 - (ii) the information which the Commissioner is assisted to view;
 - (e) direct the Commissioner to equipment or other material on the premises which is of a specified description;
 - (f) permit the Commissioner to inspect or examine the documents, information, equipment or material to which the Commissioner is directed or which the Commissioner is assisted to view;
 - (g) provide the Commissioner with an explanation of such documents, information, equipment or material;

Changes to legislation: Data Protection Act 2018, Section 146 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (h) permit the Commissioner to observe the processing of personal data that takes place on the premises;
 - (i) make available for interview by the Commissioner a specified number of people of a specified description who process personal data on behalf of the controller, not exceeding the number who are willing to be interviewed.
- (3) In subsection (2), references to the Commissioner include references to the Commissioner's officers and staff.
- (4) An assessment notice must, in relation to each requirement imposed by the notice, specify the time or times at which, or period or periods within which, the requirement must be complied with (but see the restrictions in subsections (6) to (9)).
- (5) An assessment notice must provide information about—
 - (a) the consequences of failure to comply with it, and
 - (b) the rights under sections 162 and 164 (appeals etc).
- (6) An assessment notice may not require a person to do anything before the end of the period within which an appeal can be brought against the notice.
- (7) If an appeal is brought against an assessment notice, the controller or processor need not comply with a requirement in the notice pending the determination or withdrawal of the appeal.
- (8) If an assessment notice—
 - (a) states that, in the Commissioner's opinion, it is necessary for the controller or processor to comply with a requirement in the notice urgently,
 - (b) gives the Commissioner's reasons for reaching that opinion, and
 - (c) does not meet the conditions in subsection (9)(a) to (d),subsections (6) and (7) do not apply but the notice must not require the controller or processor to comply with the requirement before the end of the period of 7 days beginning when the notice is given.
- (9) If an assessment notice—
 - (a) states that, in the Commissioner's opinion, there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a controller or processor has failed or is failing as described in section 149(2) or that an offence under this Act has been or is being committed,
 - (b) indicates the nature of the suspected failure or offence,
 - (c) does not specify domestic premises,
 - (d) states that, in the Commissioner's opinion, it is necessary for the controller or processor to comply with a requirement in the notice in less than 7 days, and
 - (e) gives the Commissioner's reasons for reaching that opinion,subsections (6) and (7) do not apply.
- (10) The Commissioner may cancel an assessment notice by written notice to the controller or processor to whom it was given.
- (11) Where the Commissioner gives an assessment notice to a processor, the Commissioner must, so far as reasonably practicable, give a copy of the notice to each controller for whom the processor processes personal data.
- (12) In this section—

Changes to legislation: Data Protection Act 2018, Section 146 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

“domestic premises” means premises, or a part of premises, used as a dwelling;

“specified” means specified in an assessment notice.

Changes to legislation:

Data Protection Act 2018, Section 146 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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\(3\)](#)