

To: National Assembly Representatives
To: County Associations
To: One Voice Wales



Colleagues,

Update on GDPR and Data Protection Bill

- The Government has tabled an amendment to its own Data Protection Bill to **exempt** all parish and town councils and parish meetings in England and community and town councils in Wales from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) under the General Data Protection Regulation.
- Officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have confirmed with us that all other measures will still apply, but that appointing a Data Protection Officer to support a council's approach to data protection will be discretionary and may be regarded as good practice. You can read the amendment [here](#) which is at the bottom of page 15 and top of page 16.
- As you know we have been lobbying hard for a proportionate regime that works for the sector and reflects its size and data usage, and addresses the new burden of the DPO requirement in particular, especially for small councils and parish meetings. We will therefore be welcoming the amendment and briefing MPs accordingly in advance of the Bill's Report stage which is expected to take place within the next few weeks.
- Discussions with government and the Information Commissioners Office will continue on this issue, as well as on providing support to the sector to help with data protection compliance more generally. And this week with the help of Carole Burslem and Danny Moody, county officers from the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire county associations respectively, we had the first meeting of the new sector-led Joint Information Governance Group (JIGG) which will shape the sector's approach to information governance, data protection and cyber security.
- We will of course keep you updated but it is vital that councils continue to prepare for compliance with the rest of the GDPR requirements as set out in NALC's GDPR toolkit and legal briefings.

Kind regards,

Justin

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HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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