



## **Access to Information on the Environment (Privacy Statement)**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is the Government Department responsible for housing and water, for physical and spatial planning, for local government and for weather forecasting and for built and natural heritage.

The Department is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. This privacy statement explains how the Department, as the Data Controller, will process the personal data provided to it in respect of Freedom of Information requests, how that information will be used, and what rights you may exercise in relation to your personal data.

### **Categories of personal data**

The Department processes the following personal data in respect of processing Access to Information on the Environment requests: Name; Title; Email; Phone; Address; Organization, possible sensitive Personal Information.

### **Purposes of the processing**

The Department will use your data in order to respond to Access to Information on the Environment request(s) submitted by you. The Department will not process your personal data for any purpose other than that for which it was collected.

The provision of your personal data is a statutory requirement in order to allow the Department to contact you in relation to responding to your Access to Information on the Environment request. You are obliged to provide this data, and failure to do so could result in your request being deemed invalid and no response issuing to your request.

### **Profiling**

The Department will not use any personal data collected from you in respect of Access to Information on the Environment requests for the purpose of automated decision making or for profiling purposes.

### **Lawfulness of processing**

This processing of your personal data is lawful under Article 6(1)(c) of the GDPR –

*c) processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject;*

The Department is also obligated to process Access to Information on the Environment requests under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014, which transposed Directive 2003/4/EC on Public Access to Information on the Environment and the first Pillar of the Aarhus Convention into Irish law.

### **Security of your personal data**

The Department implements appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your information from unauthorised access. However, despite these efforts, no security measures are perfect or impenetrable, and no method of data transmission can be guaranteed against any interception or other type of misuse. In the event that your personal data is compromised as a result of a breach of security, the Department's Breach Management policy and procedures will be implemented.

### **Recipients of the data**

Personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments, local authorities, agencies under the aegis of the Department, or other public bodies, in certain circumstances where this is provided for by law.

### **Cross-border Data Transfers**

The Department will not transfer personal data collected in respect of Access to Information on the Environment requests to any country or international organisation outside the EU/EEA.

### **How long will we keep your data?**

The Department will only retain your personal data for as long as it is necessary for the purposes for which it was collected and processed.

### **Your rights**

The Department's [Data Protection Policy](#), which sets out how we will use your personal data, as well as providing information regarding your rights as a data subject (including details regarding right of access, right to rectification, right to erasure, right to restriction of processing, right to object), is available on our website. The policy is also available in hard copy upon request.

If you consider that your rights have been infringed, you have the right to complain to the Irish Data Protection Commission ([www.dataprotection.ie](http://www.dataprotection.ie)), and you have the right to seek a judicial remedy.

### **Contacting Us**

If you require further information, or wish to access your personal data, please contact the Department's **Data Protection Officer**, details below:

**Data Protection Officer,**  
**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage,**  
**Newtown Road,**  
**Wexford**  
**Email: [data.protection@housing.gov.ie](mailto:data.protection@housing.gov.ie)**