

# Data Protection Ireland

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- Commissioners endorse guidelines on AI, p.18
- Board makes recommendations regarding DPC's DPIAs list, p.19
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## DPC conducts first cases of potential GDPR violations

The Data Protection Commission has commenced investigations under the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 into potential data breaches at Facebook and Twitter.

The Facebook breach, which affected nearly 50m Facebook accounts, was discovered by Facebook engineers on 24th September. The breach gave hackers the ability to take over users' accounts. It was patched within two days, the company said, and the Commission was notified on the third day.

The DPC's investigation will examine Facebook's compliance with its obligation under the GDPR to implement technical and organisational measures to ensure the security and safeguarding of the personal data it processes.

Shortly after the Commission announced its investigation, the Spanish Data Protection Agency announced it would collaborate on the investigation to protect the rights of Spanish citizens. It is a test case under the GDPR to see whether Facebook followed the Regulation's

rules around security of data processing.

The Commission is also investigating Twitter over claims the company failed to provide a user with requested personal data.

The social media company is alleged to have turned down the request from Michael Veale, a technology policy researcher at University College London, who was seeking information about the data Twitter collects about him from shortened

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## Data retention laws require 'urgent' revisions, Judge says

A senior judge has warned of the need for urgent action to revise a 2011 law that allows State agencies to access people's phone and internet records.

The warning comes more than a year after a former chief justice found that the law amounted to mass surveillance of the entire population.

Appeal Court judge Marie Baker published her annual report on compliance

with the provisions of a 1993 law on the interception of phone calls, and with the 2011 legislation that allows An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners and the Defence Forces to access phone and internet records.

The circumstances where records may be accessed under the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011 include for the

investigation of serious offences and tax offences, for safeguarding the security of the State and to save human life.

The Court of Justice of the European Union found in a case taken by the privacy lobby group Digital Rights Ireland in 2014 that the EU's Data Retention Directive, given effect in the 2011 national

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