

Data Protection Ireland

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Headlines

- DPC publishes toolkit for schools, p.17
- EDPB Opinion on use of personal data for the development and deployment of AI models ‘useful’, says DPC, p.18
- Clinic prosecuted for marketing offences, p.19

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DPC fines Meta 251 million euros for 2018 breach

The Data Protection Commission has fined Meta €251 million for a 2018 data breach, taking the total amount of fines it has issued to the company for GDPR breaches to €3 billion.

The 2018 data breach impacted approximately 29 million Facebook accounts globally, of which around 3 million were based in the EU/EEA. The breach arose from the exploitation by unauthorised third parties of user tokens on the Facebook platform.

Three distinct bugs were in Facebook’s ‘View As’

feature, which let people see how their profiles appear to others. The attackers used the vulnerability to steal access tokens from the accounts of people whose profiles came up in searches using the feature. The attack then moved from one user’s Facebook friend to another. Possession of those tokens would allow attackers to control those accounts.

After discovering the bug, Meta alerted the DPC as well as other EU Supervisory Authorities and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Following its investigation, the DPC submitted a draft decision to other European SAs under the GDPR’s cooperation mechanism in September 2024 and no objections to the draft decision were raised. In its press release, the DPC highlights its “gratitude for the cooperation and assistance” of its peer regulators.

Meta was found to have infringed Article 33(3) GDPR by not including in its breach notification all the information required by that provision that it could and should have

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‘Significant gaps’ in compliance amongst sport clubs

The DPC has carried out a survey on data protection practices among the sports industry which it says has revealed “significant gaps” in compliance and understanding.

The DPC developed the survey to assess various areas of understanding, including training provided to staff, the responsibilities of data processors and controllers, the handling of special category data, and

data subject rights.

In recognition of the fact that participation in sport is an important aspect of life for many young people in Ireland, one particular focus of the DPC’s engagement was on children’s data processing,

The regulator engaged with over 100 sports clubs across four major sports in terms of participation at a national level: rugby, Ladies Gaelic

Football Association, Gaelic Athletic Association, and football.

Among the key findings, 56% of sports clubs did not have a data retention schedule, which gave rise to concerns in terms of the storage and retention of personal data for periods far longer than necessary for the purpose for which they were originally obtained.

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