

Data Protection Ireland

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Headlines

- Schrems tells High Court — ‘US protections are ephemeral’, p.17
- Cloud industry body sets up new data protection code, p.19
- Singapore gets certification for DPOs, p.20

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EU-US Privacy Shield threatened with suspension

US privacy bodies, Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union, have added weight to existing concerns regarding the validity of the EU-US Privacy Shield.

The organisations said that the effect of President Trump’s recent Executive Order (reported on page 1 of the last edition) was to “attack the rights of immigrants and foreigners—including specific provisions designed to strip these individuals of critical privacy protections that have been provided by previous Democratic

and Republican administrations for decades. “Concurrently, there has been a deterioration in existing oversight and accountability structures.”

The comments are consistent with concerns raised by EU officials, including German politician Jan Phillip Albrecht, about Trump’s intentions with regard to the Shield.

The acting head of the US Federal Trade Commission, Maureen Ohlhausen, has played down the concerns, saying that the transatlantic agreement is unaffected

by the President’s Executive Order. The FTC “will continue to enforce the Privacy Shield protections, and we hope we will move ahead as planned,” she is understood to have said.

Recently, the EU DPAs said they would write to the US administration to seek assurances on this issue. “If there is a significant change, we will suspend” the accord, Vera Jourova, the European Union’s Justice Commissioner, said. “I will not hesitate to do it. There’s

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Top judge calls for change to rules on data sharing

The former president of the High Court of Ireland is calling for changes to the law on data sharing to further reduce insurance fraud.

Justice Nicolas Kearns told underwriters and brokers that existing changes to Irish claims laws have had the effect of reducing fraud and raising levels of pay-outs. However, the judge said that more needed to be done.

Kearns, who is currently the Chairman of Ireland’s Personal Injuries Commission, said that the issues stem from the way data are currently accessed.

“We need to see better sharing of data in Ireland,” Kearns said. “Telematics for instance, in vehicles is seen as available to all parties in the UK but it is not the case in Ireland.”

“We need clarification of data protection rules and it may require a change in the law,” he added.

According to Kearns, there have been moves to set up a data repository of uninsured drivers but it is ‘moving slowly.’

“The view from the government is that any repository would need to be under the control of a

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