

# Data Protection Ireland

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## Headlines

- Google to shift control of European data from US to Ireland to aid GDPR compliance, p.18
- New guidance on data processing operations that require a Data Protection Impact Assessment, p.20

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## DPC opens broad investigation of Facebook privacy practices

The Data Protection Commission has opened a GDPR investigation into Facebook on a broad spread of privacy issues. The opening of the investigation was announced after Facebook disclosed a photo leak with compromised private images belonging to up to 6.8m users.

In mid December, the social network said that it had discovered a problem with the way hundreds of third-party developers accessed photos using its app platform. The flaw leaked private photos that

Facebook users had uploaded but not chosen to share publicly. “Because of this bug, some third-party apps may have had access to a broader set of photos than usual for 12 days between September 13th to September 25th, 2018,” Facebook’s engineering director Tomer Bar said. “Currently, we believe this may have affected up to 6.8m users and up to 1,500 apps built by 876 developers.”

DPC Helen Dixon said in response to Facebook’s revelation that it had opened an investigation

into the Silicon Valley company’s compliance with the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation.

“The Irish DPC has received a number of breach notifications from Facebook since the introduction of the GDPR on May 25, 2018,” a spokesperson said. “With reference to these data breaches, including the breach in question, we have this week commenced a statutory inquiry examining Face-

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## Public consultation on children’s data protection rights to begin shortly

The Data Protection Commission will soon begin a public consultation on the processing of children’s personal data and their data protection rights under the GDPR.

Fine Gael Senator, Catherine Noone, described the announcement of the consultation as “a welcome step” aimed at fully protecting children’s data. “Currently a third of global internet users are children and Ireland is no excep-

tion to this trend,” Ms Noone said. As a result, Irish children are subject to significant levels of marketing and profiling by information services and platforms, which also sell on their data.

Ms Noone has called for a “multi-faceted approach” to protecting children’s data, and has said that public consultation will allow parent groups and child welfare organisations to

make submissions.

The aim of the consultation is to raise awareness of children’s data protection issues as well establishing standards of protection across sectors where children’s personal data are processed.

Information on how to make a submission will be available on the Data

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