



HARTPURY

Data Protection Policy

APPROVAL & REVIEW CYCLE		
Policy Owner/Reviewer	Director of Continuous Improvement & Digital Services	May 2026
Approved By	Exec	June 2026
Interim-Review	No	-
Next Review Date		June 2028

PURPOSE

This Policy sets out how Hartpury University and College (Hartpury) processes the personal data that it holds relating to students, staff, research participants and third parties. It outlines the responsibilities under data protection legislation and regulation, setting out how it will comply, and provides instruction for staff handling personal data.

The UK Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 applies to all data and information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. This is defined as personal data within data protection legislation.

Hartpury takes the protection of all personal data extremely seriously and is committed to a policy of protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals with respect to the processing of their personal data and information.

SCOPE

The Policy applies to all members of staff employed by Hartpury, including honorary staff/associates, contractors, casual staff and anyone including students who are carrying out work on behalf of Hartpury.

Everyone has a crucial role to play in ensuring that Hartpury maintains the trust and confidence of the individuals about whom Hartpury processes personal data (including its own staff), complying with Hartpury's legal obligations and protecting its reputation.

Compliance with this policy and the related policies and procedures is mandatory. Any breach of this policy and any related policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action.

Hartpury holds and processes information about its current, past or prospective employees, prospective students, applicants, current students, alumni, research subjects, parents/carers or sponsors, suppliers and other third parties who are defined as data subjects within data protection legislation.

This policy applies to all personal data that Hartpury processes regardless of the format or media on which the data are stored or who it relates to.

Hartpury processes personal information for a variety of reasons which it defines within the General Privacy notice which is available on the main Hartpury website.

Examples of these purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Administration of the student application process
- Academic administration including statutory returns to government and non-government agencies
- Managing Human Resources processes, such as applications, performance management, training and development
- Administration of financial aspects of an individual's relationship with Hartpury
- Management of use of facilities and participation in events
- Enabling effective communications with staff, students and parents/ carers/sponsors
- Operation of security, disciplinary, complaint and quality assurance processes and arrangements
- Support of health, safety, emergency response, safeguarding and welfare requirements
- Production of statistics and research for internal and statutory reporting purposes.
- Fundraising and marketing

PRINCIPLES OF DATA PROTECTION

The DPA is based on a set of core principles that Hartpury must observe and comply with at all times from the moment that personal data are collected until the moment that personal data are deleted or destroyed.

Anyone who processes personal data within Hartpury must comply with the principles of data protection. The principles define how data can be legally processed regardless of the format or media used. Processing means any operation which is performed on personal data or sets of personal data, by automated or manual means such as collecting, recording, organising, storing, adapting, altering, consulting, using, disclosing, combining, restricting, erasing or destroying.

The principles of data protection outlined in the DPA states that personal data shall be:

- a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject;
- b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes (although certain other safeguards must be in place as defined within the DPA);
- c) adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
- d) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
- e) kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods when processed only for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes subject to implementation of appropriate measures to protect the rights and freedoms of data subjects;
- f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

Additionally, Hartpury must ensure that:

- 1. Personal data are not transferred outside of the European Economic Area - EEA (which includes the use of any website or application that is hosted on servers located outside of EEA) to another country without appropriate safeguards being in place.
- 2. Hartpury allows data subjects to exercise their rights in relation to their personal data (listed below under Data Subject Rights).

Hartpury shall be responsible for, and be able to demonstrate, compliance with data protection legislation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Hartpury, as data controller (ICO Registration numbers: Z1591909 (University) ZB165599 (College)), is responsible for overall compliance with data protection legislation and meeting the accountability and transparency obligations within the legislation. Key roles include the Data

Protection Officer, Information Governance Manager and Senior Managers (roles defined in the Information Governance policy).

All staff have a responsibility to ensure they process personal data in accordance with the data protection principles and other requirements of data protection legislation.

PROCEDURES

Information Asset Owners

The Information Asset Owner is a member of staff who manages an information collection or data asset and has the power to make decisions about how that data is managed.

Record of Processing

Information Asset Owners will be responsible for recording data/information assets within Hartpury's Information Asset registers and for maintaining this register.

Data Protection Impact Assessments

A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is a process to help identify and minimise the data protection risks involved in projects, processes and activities involving the processing of personal data.

All major data processing activities, especially new processing of personal data or adaptations of existing methods of processing, should be risk assessed using the DPIA process. This process should be owned by the Information Asset Owner to ensure that the proposed processing complies with the requirements of data protection and risks are identified and effectively managed.

Templates and guidance are available on the Information Governance intranet pages and should be used to complete the DPIAs, which are reviewed by the DPO and wider Information Governance Group (IGG).

Data Subject Rights

Hartpury will comply with all data subject rights, as appropriate in relation to the processing it undertakes.

These rights are:

- Transparency of processing
- Right of access to personal data
- Right to be informed of collection and processing of data
- Right of rectification of inaccurate personal data
- Right to be forgotten (of erasure)*
- Right to restriction of processing
- Right to be informed of high-risk data breach
- Right to withdraw consent*
- Right to data portability
- Right to object to automated individual decision making, including profiling
- Right to object to processing
- Right to complain

(* unless data is required by Hartpury in order to fulfil our relationship)

Transparency of Processing

Details of the use of personal data by Hartpury can be found in Hartpury's General Privacy Notice on the Hartpury website.

Subject Access Requests

The Data Protection Act 2018 entitles any individual whose data is processed by Hartpury to request a copy of that data; this is known as a data Subject Access Request (SAR). The right of the individual under the Act is to be told whether we or someone else on our behalf is processing their personal data and if so, to be given a description of the personal data, the purposes for which they are being processed and the likely recipients and sources of that personal data. The individual is also entitled to receive a copy of this personal data.

Any person can exercise this right by submitting a Subject Access Request form, available on our website. Any formal SAR will be responded to within the 30 calendar days, or appropriate additional timescale as laid down by data protection legislation.

Data Sharing

All sharing of personal data with third parties will be subject to the appropriate controls as laid out in data protection legislation.

Repeated or ongoing data sharing arrangements will be covered by an appropriate data sharing or processor agreement and/or where appropriate by contract to comply with this policy. New agreements will be subject to the DPIA process.

Use of Personal Data Within Research

Use of personal data for research purposes will be subject to the appropriate safeguards as specified within the data protection legislation and through ethical review as described in the Hartpury Research Standard Operating Procedures and Hartpury Research Code of Conduct. Personal data should be limited to the minimum amount of data which is reasonably required to achieve the desired academic objectives. Wherever possible, personal data should be anonymised or pseudonymised so that the data subjects cannot be identified.

Accountability and Record Keeping

Hartpury is responsible for and must be able to demonstrate compliance with the data protection principles and Hartpury's other obligations under the DPA. This is known as the 'accountability principle'. Hartpury will ensure that it has adequate resources, systems and processes in place to demonstrate compliance with Hartpury's obligations including:

- appointing a suitably qualified and experienced Data Protection Officer (DPO) and providing them with adequate support and resource.
- ensuring that at the time of deciding how Hartpury will process personal data, and throughout its processing, appropriate technical and organisational measures that are designed to ensure compliance with the data protection principles will be implemented.
- ensuring that, by default, only personal data that are necessary for each specific purpose are processed both in relation to the nature, extent and volume of such personal data, and that the period of storage and the accessibility of the personal data is appropriate.
- ensuring that where any intended processing presents a high risk to the rights and freedoms of data subjects, Hartpury has carried out an assessment of those risks and is taking steps to mitigate those risks, by undertaking a Data Protection Impact Assessment.
- offering training to Hartpury staff on the DPA, this policy and Hartpury's related policies and procedures, and maintaining a record of training completion by members of staff.

- regularly monitoring the measures implemented by Hartpury to ensure they are effective. Hartpury will keep records of all its processing activities in accordance with the requirements of the DPA.

Staff must ensure that they have undertaken the prescribed training or consulted guidance provided by Hartpury and, where staff are responsible for other members of staff, that they have done so.

Managers must further review all the systems and processes under their control to ensure that they comply with Hartpury's obligations under this policy.

GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS

Implementation / Communication Plan

This policy is communicated to all staff as part of Hartpury's induction and ongoing training.

Exceptions to this Policy

There are no exceptions to this policy. Data Protection Legislation requires that all processing of personal data within Hartpury be subject to this policy.

REFERENCE TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Hartpury General Privacy Notice
- Subject Access Request form
- Information Governance Policy
- Data Breach Policy
- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)
- Hartpury Research Standard Operating Procedures
- Hartpury Research Code of Conduct

Internal Guidance

- Data Protection Officer
- Senior Information Risk Officer

External Guidance

- ICO website
- Data Protection Act on the UK Government website

APPROVAL AND REVIEW CYCLE

This policy and specific subsidiary information governance and security policies will be reviewed by the Information Governance Group regularly to ensure that it remains appropriate in the light of any relevant changes to the law, Hartpury policies, contractual obligations, technological developments and emerging threats.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

As part of this policy, Hartpury reaffirms its commitment to the principles of freedom of speech and academic freedom, in accordance with the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 and guidance from the Office for Students (OfS). Hartpury will take all reasonably practicable steps to secure the right to express lawful views and engage in open debate without fear of censorship or institutional discipline for staff, students, and visiting speakers. In addition, this policy prohibits the

use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in any situation that would prevent staff from speaking out about misconduct, harassment, or other matters of public interest.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

As with all Hartpury policies and procedures, due care has been taken to ensure that this policy is appropriate to all members of staff and students regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and transgender status.

The policy will be applied fairly and consistently whilst upholding Hartpury's commitment to providing equality to all. If any employee or student feels that this or any other policy does not meet this aim, please contact the HR Department (staff) or an academic tutor (student).

Hartpury is committed towards promoting positive mental health by working towards the MINDFUL EMPLOYER Charter, holds the Student Minds University Mental Health accreditation and has signed the AoC Mental Charter. Hartpury aims to create a culture of support within the workplace where employees can talk about mental health problems without the fear of stigma or discrimination.