

THE RESTORE DATASHRED GUIDE TO THE 5 BIGGEST GDPR MYTHS

The current Data Protection Act (DPA) has been around since 1998. As technology advanced, the law struggled to adequately reflect the way that personal data was collected, stored and used.

As a result, the existing DPA is being enhanced by the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR includes many familiar aspects, alongside some changes. For example, the definition of personal information now includes online identifiers, such as IP addresses, as well as mandatory breach reporting.

Coming into force on the 25th of May, 2018, a lot of information has been shared about GDPR. Unfortunately, not all of it is accurate. We've decided to clear up the confusion that surrounds the new Regulation and shred through a few of the biggest GDPR myths to get to the truth.



MYTH #1: THE GDPR IS ALL ABOUT FINING BUSINESSES

A few dissenting voices have claimed that the GDPR's focus will be on enforcing financial punishment to any businesses that fail to comply. While talking about big fines might make for great headlines, it would be misleading to portray the regulations as simply a money-grabbing exercise.

THE TRUTH

As the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has stated, the Regulation isn't about fines. It's about putting the consumer and citizen first.

While it's true that GDPR will allow for fines much bigger than the current limit of £500,000, the ICO has stated that they won't be making any early examples of organisations for minor infringements.

In fact, issuing fines will continue to be a last resort, with the focus continuing to be on guiding, advising and educating organisations. It's also worth noting that the ICO has yet to invoke their maximum powers under the current law.

As they do now, the ICO will have a range of enforcement tools at their disposal, whether investigations, reprimands or corrective orders, to help organisations comply with GDPR. While the financial impact on a business is less obvious than a direct fine, any action by the ICO is likely to deal a significant blow to their professional reputation.



Any fine relating to GDPR will reflect the importance of personal data in the modern world. As such, serious data breaches are more likely to result in heftier fines.

The introduction of mandatory breach reporting will shine a powerful light on how all businesses handle personal information. Organisations will need to notify the relevant supervisory authority and, in some cases, the individuals whose information has been breached. Failure to do so, or a failure to notify them within the allotted time, could face sizeable fines.

Too much emphasis on the fines involved takes the focus off what GDPR is really about, protecting people from the risks associated to holding personal data in a digitally-connected world.

Fines can be avoided if organisations are open and honest.

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