

Book Review: Data Protection Strategy: Implementing Data Protection Compliance (Third Edition)

**Stephanie Pritchett, Partner,
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qualified Practice Manager,
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review the latest edition of
Data Protection Strategy:
Implementing Data
Protection Compliance
(Sweet & Maxwell,
ISBN: 9780414060203, £245)**

The previous edition of this bible for data protection practitioners was published nearly a decade ago. As we know, much has changed since then.

The new edition is split into three main parts. Part 1 covers the essentials of the legislation that has been enacted since the second edition (the GDPR and the UK Data Protection Act 2018) and includes explanatory guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office. This part explores each element of the law in detail, including lengthy sections on data subject rights, direct marketing and data transfers. It also covers the key roles in data protection and describes what is at stake where there is a failure of compliance.

Part 2 examines the process of conducting a data protection audit. Each stage is assessed, from preparing for an audit, to undertaking it, through to analysing its outcomes.

Part 3 focuses on compliance, including how to set up procedures to comply with the legislation, and then to maintain that compliance in future. In particular, it addresses compliance with the GDPR's principles of transparency and accountability, and the new rules for processing children's data. This part also examines technological challenges such as cookies, monitoring and Bring Your Own Device.

Establishing data protection compliance is made much easier with *Data Protection Strategy's* combination of hands-on guidance, checklists and precedent material. The authors' established pedigree in the subject makes them excellent navigators of a complex subject.

Richard Morgan is an independent IT consultant who, for many years, was Computer Officer at both Houses of Parliament. He lectures widely on IT-related law such as data protection and intellectual property in software. Ruth Boardman is a Partner at Bird & Bird, co-heading its international privacy and data protection group. Her extensive experience in the field of data protection law has included running many international compliance programmes.

Unfortunately, *Data Protection Strategy* was completed before the EU–US Privacy Shield was declared invalid in 2020, so this element of the data transfer section is now less relevant. In addition, Brexit concluded some time after this edition was written, so the authors have acknowledged many unknowns.

However, they have identified where the biggest effects would be likely to be seen. Consequently, they provide further information on the likely impact of Brexit on the role of the ICO and the operation of the co-operation and consistency mechanisms in the GDPR, the material and territorial scope of data protection legislation in the UK, and transfers of personal data.

Brexit and the EU–US Privacy Shield notwithstanding, this clearly written, well-structured, comprehensive guide will be a fantastic aid to its intended audience: anyone responsible for data protection compliance in their organisation.

The authors assume that readers will have no prior knowledge of the legislation. Therefore, they explain concepts from first principles, but also provide thorough cross-referencing where they explore topics in more detail elsewhere in the book.

Data Protection Strategy's granularity makes it suitable for lawyers who work in the field too, and includes the usual tables of statutes, cases and European legislation, as well as tables of guidance from the Information Commissioner and the Article 29 Working Party, now the European Data Protection Board.

The authors have successfully combined their varied experience to produce a fully rounded approach, ensuring that *Data Protection Strategy* covers all angles of data protection compliance.

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