



# Virtual Data Protection Officer

## What is a DPO?

The DPO's role is to ensure compliance with the data protection laws that apply to the organisation, and it carries many responsibilities. The DPO: informs and advises the organisation's staff regarding their legal obligations; monitors compliance with the law; manages staff awareness and training regarding data protection; acts as the contact point with the data protection authorities; is the point of contact for queries from individuals whose data is being processed; and manages the overall risk around the organisation's processing of personal data.

## Who can be a DPO?

There is presently no formal qualification requirement for a DPO, with the law instead stating that suitability is based on "professional qualities and, in particular, expert knowledge of data protection law and practices". The organisation must also ensure that the DPO has sufficient time in his or her schedule, and appropriate access to staff at all levels, to carry out the necessary duties effectively and in a timely manner.



## Do I need a DPO?

Many organisations are obliged to appoint a DPO: if you're a public authority, for example or you process large amounts of data systematically and frequently. You also require a DPO if you process particularly sensitive data on a large scale (examples include data about individuals' health, religion or criminal records).

Even if you're not legally obliged to have a DPO, engaging an external data protection specialist gives your organisation access to specialist knowledge and experience.

## Why would I outsource my DPO function?

Large organisations can normally justify the cost of employing and supporting an in-house DPO to deal with their data protection compliance requirements. Organisations that cannot justify the expense of a full-time role, on the other hand, can engage an external DPO on a part-time basis and focus their remaining resources on core business streams.

In addition, an external DPO brings independent, unbiased reporting of data protection matters to senior management and to the Board.

Our team specialises not only on privacy but also cyber risk and security governance which are integral part of the DPR role.

## How Grant Thornton can help you

### Our data protection specialists will work with you to:

- Understand the personal data you hold and process, and deal with the associated risks.
- Register processing activities with the relevant data protection authorities.
- Implement policies and procedures for effective operation of data protection practices.
- Manage requests from data subjects.
- Monitor compliance and change.
- Report regularly to senior management.
- Provide training and guidance to staff regarding data protection.

### For further information, please contact:



**Christos Makedonas**  
Managing Director  
Technology Risk Services  
T +357 22600000  
E [Christos.Makedonas@cy.gt.com](mailto:Christos.Makedonas@cy.gt.com)