



Accurate data. Meaningful relationships.

New Year, new me... We've given the Verifile newsletter a makeover

How to implement [GDPR across the EEA](#), updates to our [passport validation](#), our [2019 review](#), Verifile founder wins [top award](#), and more...



Hello <<First Name>>,

Welcome to Verifile's new look monthly newsletter. The same great content but in an easier to read format.

As well as bringing you the latest [news about Verifile](#), our products and achievements, we also pride ourselves in making sure Verifile clients are the most informed about background screening and related subjects.

This includes [top sector stories](#) about changes in legislation that may have an impact on how you carry out background screening.

To that end, we scour local, national and international news daily so you get

everything you need in one easy to read place.

Just click on the images below to be taken to the latest background screening news from the locations you're interested in.

As always if you need anything, [drop us a line](#) and one of our teams will be more than happy to help.

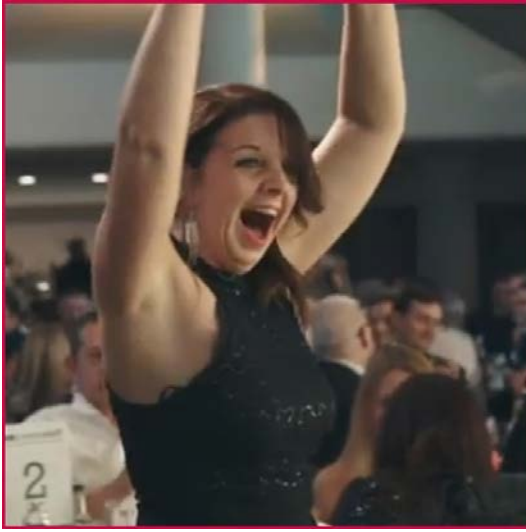
All the best,

Eyal



VERIFILE NEWS

[Back to menu](#)



2019 was a great year for Verifile and we've no intention of slowing down

Awards, accreditations, improved products, a new website and brand, a milestone birthday and lots of cash raised for charity, 2019 was busy. But what were the highlights what does it mean for Verifile and our clients?

[Read more](#)



Verifile founder named as Cranfield School of Management's Entrepreneur Alumnus of the Year

Eyal Ben Cohen, has been recognised in the Cranfield School of Management Alumni Awards. Judges said: "Eyal's vision gives other businesses peace of mind and confidence when hiring new employees..."

[Read more](#)



Verifile jumps into 2020 with faster passport validation and accessibility upgrades

We've boosted our passport validation speed and created clearer reporting, upgraded the accessibility of our main website, candidate portal, and Verifile portal, and our check notes have also had a few tweaks.

[Read more](#)



Disclosure Scotland praises Verifile for low error rate

Verifile has been given some excellent news from Disclosure Scotland (DS), who say we have a very low error rate when processing criminal record checks, meaning our clients are getting the very best service.

[Read more](#)

Top sector stories

What we think you need to know above everything else this month

[Back to menu](#)



UK: No changes to Right to Work rules until 2021, despite Brexit

The UK Government has issued a reminder that Brexit will not affect Right to Work (RtW) rules until 1 January 2021. This includes any employee who is an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen.

[Read more](#)



USA: Round up of state by state proposals for privacy bills

Law firm Covinton and Burling LLP are writing a series of blogs comparing and explaining the varied and complex privacy laws being implementing or proposed in various states across the USA.

[Read more](#)

How to implement GDPR within the EEA

Knowledge base [JF Supra](#), who hold thousands of thought leadership pieces for the legal sector and beyond, have published a number of articles from law firm [White & Case LLP](#) on what is needed to comply with GDPR, if you operate within the European Economic Area (EEA).

A general overview and articles specific to EEA countries can be found at the headings below:

[EEA overview](#)

[Austria](#)

[Belgium](#)

[Bulgaria](#)

[Croatia](#)

[Cyprus](#)

[Czech Republic](#)

[Denmark](#)

[Estonia](#)

[Finland](#)

[France](#)

[Germany](#)

[Greece](#)

[Hungary](#)

[Iceland](#)

[Ireland](#)

[Italy](#)

[Latvia](#)

[Liechtenstein](#)

[Lithuania](#)

[Luxembourg](#)

[Netherlands](#)

[Norway](#)

[Poland](#)

[Romania](#)

[Slovakia](#)

[Slovenia](#)

[Spain](#)

[Sweden](#)

[United Kingdom](#) (Yep, even post-Brexit, UK

companies will need to read this)



Kenya: What does new data protection law. What does it mean for netizens?

The act makes provision for the regulation of the processing of personal data, and provides for the rights of data subjects and obligations of data controllers and processors.

[Read more](#)



Latin America: Data protection bolster in a legal overhaul

The general data protection regulation (GDPR) has prompted legislative proposals in Latin American countries to update data protection regulations, many of which reflect GDPR.

[Read more](#)

SECTOR NEWS

UK

[Back to menu](#)



"Urgent action" ordered after fault found in Milton Keynes school taxi safety checks

A council has been ordered to take urgent action after a fault was found in the way it checks taxi drivers and assistants who transport vulnerable children to school.

[Read more](#)

Scans of thousands of British passports exposed in online leak – and could let crooks steal your identity

A database left sensitive details, including passport scans of thousands of Brits, accessible and unsecured for years.

[Read more](#)

'Staggering' trade in fake degrees revealed

Thousands of UK nationals have bought fake degrees from a multi-million pound "diploma mill" in Pakistan, a BBC Radio 4's File on Four programme investigation has found.

[Read more](#)

Lewisham and Greenwich Trust scrutinised over sharing patients' data with Experian

A decision by Lewisham and Greenwich Trust to hand over patients' personal data to a credit reference firm was slammed by committee members in Lewisham.

[Read more](#)

Twitter drops Grindr from ad network over 'GDPR breaches'

Twitter has suspended Grindr from its ad platform after a study claimed the dating app was passing significant amounts of private information to advertisers without explicit consent from users.

[Read more](#)

Solicitor fooled by 'bogus' lawyer allowed firm to be used for fraud

A solicitor who was hoodwinked by a bogus employee, resulting in the dissipation of over £1m of client money, has been struck off by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal and ordered to pay £15,000 in costs.

[Read more](#)

How CSCS cards got a web-based revamp

The firm says the updated card service is faster to apply for, convenient for workers and more resistant to fraud.

Why 2020 is the year of the data protection officer and how to deal with the skills shortage

Data privacy enforcement agencies around the world are ramping up judgements and penalties, while cybercriminals are doubling down with new ways to break into networks. With the dust still settling on GDPR, California lawmakers are altering the legislative landscape with the newly enacted California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

[Read more](#)

Dixons Carphone fined £500,000 for massive data breach

Dixons Carphone has been hit with the maximum possible fine after the tills in its shops were compromised by a cyber-attack that affected at least 14 million people.

[Read more](#)

Ice cream van traders in Liverpool set to face criminal background checks 'to protect children'

Traders who use ice cream vans in Liverpool are set to face background checks under proposed new council rules aimed at better protecting the city's children.

[Read more](#)

Police in secret requests to NHS over mental health of complainants

Staffordshire Police is being accused of secretly obtaining information on the mental health of people who complain against the force.

[Read more](#)

Neighbourhood Watch Being Hampered by GDPR

Neighbourhood Watch organisations in North Yorkshire say their efforts to help crack down on crime are being hampered by the GDPR data regulations.

[Read more](#)

Councillor calls for background checks to be standard for all elected members

Cllr Donna Greaves, a member of The Independents, said she has visited numerous schools and residents in their home since being elected last May, despite never being asked to undergo a basic Disclosure and Barring Service check.

[Read more](#)

Chinese takeaway faces fine of up to £40k after illegal workers found

A Chinese takeaway is facing fines of up to £40,000 after two illegal foreign workers were found in an immigration raid.

[Read more](#)

How UK companies can prepare for a new national GDPR post-Brexit

For the purposes of the GDPR, a third country is one outside the European Economic Area (the EU and Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein). There are no further distinctions between the other nations. So, once the UK leaves the EU, by definition, the UK is a third country and the rules relating to third countries will apply.

[Read more](#)

CEO impersonation fraud: can an employee be liable for their negligent actions?

Employers suing employees is not uncommon. However, it is rare to see a claim against an employee for loss occasioned during employment due to the employee's negligence in the performance of their duties.

[Read more](#)

“I told them I'd been in jail for assault, but they gave me a job anyway” – ex staff speak out as Worcester care company criticised by CQC

Fomer staff have spoken out about a care company after a watchdog's damning inspection report. The Care Quality Commission says Ignite Health and Home Care Service, based in Lowesmoor Terrace, 'requires improvement'.

[Read more](#)

OAP home help service fails health watchdog inspection again

Safe recruitment procedures had been breached as two staff were found to be working without DBS checks while two carers had done the checks after they had begun working for the firm.

[Read more](#)

Council sees rise in cabbie applicants providing fake training certificates to drive people around borough

There has been an increase in the number of taxi drivers providing fake qualifications to allow them to drive on Merseyside roads. That is the news from a Sefton Council report, which revealed that the authority “had seen an increase in counterfeit certificates being submitted.”

Why we need a GDPR for dead people

There would be a minimum of 1.4 billion deceased users on Facebook by 2100 if the social media network had stopped attracting new users as of 2018. But if the network continues to expand at current rates, this number will exceed 4.9 billion.

[Read more](#)

California's privacy act impacts UK companies as GDPR principles go global

As the UK struggles to chart out its post-Brexit response to GDPR, other geographies are going ahead with their own privacy initiatives inspired by the European Union's regulation.

[Read more](#)

Pharmacy receives first ever fine for breaking GDPR rules

A pharmacy has been fined £275,000 for "cavalier" disposal of records about vulnerable care home residents, in the first fine issued for breaching GDPR rules.

[Read more](#)

Banbury taxi driver 'failed to disclose driving death'

A taxi driver has been convicted of fraud after he failed to declare a conviction of causing death by careless driving on his licence application.

[Read more](#)

MSPs back stronger background checks to protect children

Anyone working with children or vulnerable people will be required to have compulsory background checks under the new legislation being considered by MSPs.

[Read more](#)

CV fraud harming rec processes

New research has found that one fifth (20 percent) of the CVs processed by recruiters each day contain some variety of discrepancy, which has impacted the quality of hires.

[Read more](#)

The data protection implications of giving references

The law around references is complex, particularly after the implementation of the GDPR. Holly Cudbill, an associate at Blake Morgan, discusses how an employer is not generally obliged to provide a reference and many simply offer a basic factual reference.

[Read more](#)

Can employees sue HR over bad references?

Defamation in the workplace isn't limited to gossiping around the watercooler. Sometimes, an employer who provides false statements about a former employee during a background check may end up getting sued for defamation.

[Read more](#)

USA

[Back to menu](#)



Does a processor that is located only in the United States, or that is processing data only from the United States, need to appoint an article 27 representative

The general data protection regulation (GDPR) requires some foreign companies to designate a “representative” that is present in the European Union (EU), not to be responsible for compliance, but to facilitate communication between data subjects and the controller or processor represented.

[Read more](#)

What the Fair Chance Act Means for Government Contractors

The “Fair Chance Act” was signed into law as 2019 came to a close, just one part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

[Read more](#)

Federal Hiring Issues Highlight Importance of Comprehensive Background Screening

Recent news reports have uncovered the actions of a deputy assistant secretary in the U.S. State Department who is accused of embellishing her educational and work credentials.

[Read more](#)

Paper Related GDPR Fine Issued by Regulatory Authority

The UK Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) has just issued its first fine under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into effect on May 25 2018. Although GDPR is a European legislation it still has significant implications for US organizations that handle or store personal data of any European resident.

[Read more](#)

Criminals are using ‘Frankenstein identities’ to steal from banks and credit unions

So-called synthetic identity fraud is the fastest-growing financial crime, according to the Federal Reserve, driven in part by lending moving online. It’s also one of the hardest to detect.

[Read more](#)

Youth groups are skirting background check law intended to protect children from abuse

For months beginning in late 2018, parents in one of the Boy Scout troops in York County exchanged emails raising an alarming complaint: Applications for a series of required background checks for some of the troop’s volunteers were missing.

[Read more](#)

Family of grandmother fatally attacked inside home says proposed legislation doesn’t go far enough

Loved ones of a Boca Raton grandmother, who was brutally beaten inside her home, say they cannot support proposed legislation named after her.

[Read more](#)

Federal Hiring Issues Highlight Importance of Comprehensive Background Screening

Recent news reports have uncovered the actions of a deputy assistant secretary in the U.S. State Department who is accused of embellishing her educational and work credentials.

[Read more](#)

'Do not hire' registry to prevent bad teachers from being rehired

Starting in January, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is launching a "no hire" registry .The registry will include teachers with a past of misconduct or a criminal history.

[Read more](#)

Uber adds new safety features in the wake of U of SC student's 2019 murder

In the nearly ten months since the University of South Carolina student Samantha Josephson was murdered after mistakenly getting into a car she believed to be her Uber, her family, Uber, and South Carolina lawmakers have introduced new laws, campaigns, and safety upgrades to promote rideshare safety.

[Read more](#)

And It Begins – Privacy Legislation Introduced in Virginia

The “Virginia Privacy Act” (HB 473), has been introduced for consideration to the General Assembly of Virginia. The proposed legislation includes notice requirements similar to the California Consumer Privacy Act’s (CCPA), provides consumers with rights similar to those under the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and unlike either the CCPA or the GDPR, would require data controllers to perform and document a privacy risk assessment for every processing activity.

[Read more](#)

Lawsuit alleges Waterloo broke the law with “ban the box”

The lawsuit cited a section of Iowa code that was championed by the Iowa ABI and was passed in 2017. It reads a city cannot pass any ordinance exceeding or conflicting with federal or state laws relating to hiring practices.

[Read more](#)

From Marijuana Mandates To ‘Ban The Box’ Rules: 2019 Laws And Legal Decisions Force Big Changes In Hiring

For employers, the past decade came with plenty of highs, lows, and turbulence. We moved away from the job losses and bankruptcies associated

with the 2008 financial crisis into a period of historically low unemployment, a skilled labour shortage, and new pushes to make the workplace fair for all.

[Read more](#)

Government Employees and Contractors Not Subject to the Same Vetting Process

Government employees and contractors who require a security clearance are subject to Continuous Evaluation – comprehensive monitoring and periodic re-investigation of their behaviour. However, the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) has found two critical differences: the consideration of social media, and personnel security information sharing.

[Read more](#)

Rules preventing certain sexual offenders from changing their names expected to take effect next month

Saskatchewan's Justice Minister Don Morgan says the province rules preventing certain sexual offenders from changing their names are expected to take effect in February.

[Read more](#)

Settlement Approved in Lawsuit Over Alleged Inaccurate Background Checks

In December of 2019, a federal judge in Pennsylvania gave final approval for a settlement of a class action lawsuit for \$562,500 against a “company accused of providing prospective employers with inaccurate criminal background checks.”

[Read more](#)

Background checks sought for delivery workers

Background checks would be required for delivery employees after the murder of a 75-year-old Boca Raton woman in August, under a bill filed by Rep. Mike Caruso, R-Delray Beach.

[Read more](#)

Another NYC-government background-check scandal

Timely investigations might not have uncovered now-fired Department of Education staffer David Hay's alleged paedophilia, but his case exposes some pretty major holes in the city's vetting of new hires.

[Read more](#)

Background checks left uncompleted for thousands in NYC

For years, New York City agencies hired employees who were never fully

vetted. The information came to light following the firing of David Hay, a deputy chief of staff with the Department of Education, who was just arrested on charges that he was involved in a child sex crime.

[Read more](#)

No one is ready for California's new consumer privacy law

Just like the GDPR, it's not totally clear what it means to be compliant with the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

[Read more](#)

The global employment screening services market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.8% by 2027

The global employment screening services market accounted for US\$ 4.12 Bn in 2018 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 4.8% over the forecast period 2019-2027, to account for US\$ 6.25 Bn by 2027.

[Read more](#)

New bill aims to thwart bad Santas by requiring background checks

A New York lawmaker is going after bad Santas with a bill that would require costumed characters who work with children to undergo background checks before getting hired.

[Read more](#)

DOJ Report Shows 'Fix NICS' is Working: Six Million Convictions Added to Background Check System

Attorney General William Barr has released the first-ever semi-annual report on the Fix NICS Act, which requires federal agencies to report criminal convictions to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to be added into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

[Read more](#)

Checks, Please! Endorsed by Gillibrand, PROTECTS Act Would Allow Nursing Homes Access to Key Background Screening

In October, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced bipartisan legislation that would lift restrictions on access to background check data for Medicare- and Medicaid-certified skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospice programs and pharmacies.

[Read more](#)

California's AB 5 Looms Large in 2020 for I-9 Compliance Managers

In September, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 5 (AB

5) into law, which codifies a strict set of requirements that employers must use for determining whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor.

[Read more](#)

Credit Reporting Trade Association Seeks Injunction to Block NJ Law Requiring Credit Reports to be Made Available in Multiple Languages

The Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA) has filed a lawsuit against the New Jersey Attorney General, seeking an injunction to block enforcement of revisions to New Jersey law that require nationwide consumer reporting agencies (NCRAs) to make credit reports available to consumers in multiple languages other than English.

[Read more](#)

CFPB Takes Action Against Two of the Largest Employment Background Screening Report Providers for Serious Inaccuracies

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) took action against General Information Services (GIS) and its affiliate, e-Background-checks.com, Inc. (BGC) for failing to take basic steps to assure the information reported about job applicants was accurate.

[Read more](#)

Dollar General Reaches Settlement with the EEOC in Years Long Background Check Bias Suit

In 2013, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed suit against Dollar General, alleging the retailer's use of criminal background checks disparately impacted African American applicants in violation of Title VII.

[Read more](#)

Independent Contractors Gain New Rights in NYC Anti-Discrimination Law Update

The New York City Council approved a sweeping change to its employment laws in September when it updated its anti-discrimination rules to include independent contractors.

[Read more](#)

Ninth Circuit Rules that Users, Not Consumers, Must Prove an Authorized Purpose for Obtaining a Consumer Report

The district court has dismissed a case in which plaintiff Freshta Nayab sued a banking institution alleging unauthorized inquiries in violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

[Read more](#)

First Day of the Job and on Notice: When the Statute of Limitations Begins for Employer Background Checks

The recent rulings of lower California courts suggest that the statute of limitations for an employee to file a claim for an alleged violation of federal and/or state background and credit checks laws can begin on the employee's first day of work

[Read more](#)

Around the world

[Back to menu](#)



Africa

[Back to menu](#)



Kenya

Kenya now has a data protection law. What does this mean for netizens?

After a long wait, Kenya has passed comprehensive data protection legislation – the data protection act of 2019. The act brings into play comprehensive laws that protect the personal information of individuals. It establishes the office of

the data protection commissioner, makes provision for the regulation of the processing of personal data, and provides for the rights of data subjects and obligations of data controllers and processors.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria

Inside Nigeria's ivory tower where fake professors 'nurture' tomorrow's leaders

Nigeria has a history of endemic corruption and the announcement by the National Universities Commission (NUC) that there are over 100 fake professors in the nation's tertiary institutions leaves much to be desired.

[Read more](#)

Rising fake certificates racketeering, desperation for service undermine NYSC scheme

Syndicates from tertiary institutions within and outside Nigeria have for years been selling first degree certificates to individuals, who are desperate for the National Youth Service Corps, thereby strangling education and employment sectors.

[Read more](#)

South Africa

North police warn newbie students to be alert

Police have warned first-year students to beware scams that most students have fallen victims to in the past.

[Read more](#)

Here is how to check if a college is accredited

Are you fresh out of school and looking for a higher institution of learning where you can further your studies? Unless you are going to study at a public institution, it is important to check the accreditation of a private institution of higher learning before enrolling to study.

[Read more](#)

Minister warns against illegal colleges

Higher Education, Science and Technology Minister Blade Nzimande has warned students and parents to be wary of "fly-by-night" colleges.

[Read more](#)

APAC

[Back to menu](#)



Australia

Airbnb has patented software that digs through social media to root out people who display 'narcissism or psychopathy'

Airbnb owns the rights to software that's designed to scan people's online presence to predict whether they're trustworthy, according to a patent filed last year.

[Read more](#)

Fake Sydney doctor fined \$30,000 for decade of fraud

Fake Sydney doctor who worked in Australia for over a decade using a stolen identity is fined \$30,000. Shyam Acharya, 41, worked under the name Sarang Chitale for 11 years undetected in Sydney hospitals.

[Read more](#)

India

Delhi BJP attacks AAP over its candidate Jitendra Singh Tomar's fake degree

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Delhi has attacked the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over alleged fake degree of former law minister Jitendra Singh Tomar.

[Read more](#)

India's answer to GDPR: Data protection legislation set to pass this year

India's answer to GDPR, the EU's data protection law, has achieved quite a feat: drawing the ire of both Big Tech and privacy advocates.

[Read more](#)

Fake Degree case: Delhi HC sets aside election of AAP leader and ex-Delhi Law minister Jitendra Singh Tomar for false declaration

The Delhi High Court has set aside the election of ex-Delhi Law Minister Jitendra Singh Tomar for providing a false declaration regarding his educational

qualifications in his nomination papers for the 2015 assembly elections in Delhi.

[Read more](#)

India's Proposed Privacy Law Allows Government Access and Some Data Localization

The world's largest democracy has Constitutional privacy protection, but no omnibus privacy law. The most prominent proposed privacy act looks like GDPR, with special data access rights reserved for the Indian government.

[Read more](#)

Man Arrested for Practising Medicine on Fake Degree

A 47-year-old man was arrested for allegedly practising medicine on a fake degree, police said on Thursday.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra Medical Council suspends licence of 14 doctors

Cracking down on doctors with fraudulent degrees, the Maharashtra Medical Council (MMC) has suspended licences of 14 speciality doctors who were found to be unqualified after investigation.

[Read more](#)

Japan

Japan's DPA proposes amendments to APPI

On Nov. 29, the Japanese data protection authority, the Personal Information Protection Commission, published a skeleton outline of amendments to the Act on the Protection of Personal Information. In this article, we will explain the contents of the skeleton outline, which consists of seven main topics.

[Read more](#)

New Zealand

Woman awarded \$3k in damages after bad job reference 'breached privacy'

A childcare centre must pay a former employee \$3000 in damages for breaching her privacy by giving her a bad job reference which saw her miss out

on a job.

[Read more](#)

Pakistan

SC seeks details of fake degree cases against PIA employees

Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday sought details of cases pertaining to fake degrees of employees working in Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

[Read more](#)

Singapore

Woman jailed for seven weeks for providing fake diploma, and transcript for Singapore Permanent Resident applications for herself and daughter

A woman from the Philippines was jailed seven weeks, after she produced a fake diploma and transcript from a university in her home country when applying to be a permanent resident (PR) in Singapore.

[Read more](#)

Thailand

Thailand gets ready for data protection law

The country's Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), modelled on the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), will come into effect on 27 May 2020. Among other provisions, the PDPA also requires organisations to seek consent to collect personal data, with data owners given the right to revoke access to their data at any time.

[Read more](#)

Canada

[Back to menu](#)



The 2018-2019 Annual Report to Parliament of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner is interesting reading, and it shows that the OPC has been doing some deep thinking about the nature of privacy and has been looking around the world at the philosophies of privacy in other jurisdictions.

[Read more](#)

Caribbean

[Back to menu](#)



New Puerto Rico law limits employers' use of credit reports in employment decisions

Effective immediately, Puerto Rico's "act to protect employee's credit information" prohibits employers from refusing to hire, dismissing, or otherwise discriminating against an employee or applicant because of the information in a credit report or on account of the employee's credit history.

[Read more](#)

Europe

[Back to menu](#)



GDPR guidance

Fines for European privacy breaches reach 114 million euros: report
European regulators have imposed 114 million euros (\$126 million) in fines for data breaches since tougher privacy rules came into force in mid-2018, with approaches varying widely from country to country.

EU: new guidelines on the concepts of controller, processor and joint controllership

The European data protection supervisor has issued a set of guidelines that could be used by organizations to determine whether they act as controller, processor or joint controller.

[Read more](#)

The data protection commission issues guidance on requesting personal data from prospective tenants

The data protection commission (DPC) has issued guidance to assist landlords (or agents acting on behalf of landlords) and tenants in understanding what information is appropriate for landlords to request from prospective tenants at the initial application stage for a residential tenancy.

[Read more](#)

Organizations struggle to comply with GDPR

Most organizations covered under the European Union's data-privacy law find compliance a challenge, according to a recent study. Just 18 percent of survey respondents said they are highly confident in their organizations' ability to report a data breach to the relevant regulators within the required 72-hour timeframe set forth in the GDPR.

[Read more](#)

Companies engaged in Trans-Atlantic data transfers face legal uncertainty

Recent court challenges of the reliance of standard contractual clauses and the U.S.-EU Privacy Shield framework have left businesses with an increase in legal uncertainty as to the future legitimacy of these long-standing data transfer practices.

[Read more](#)

Austria

GDPR: decision of the DPA on the erasure of personal data

What is meant by “erasure” with regards to the general data protection regulation (GDPR)? The DPA recently declared that the definition of “processing” in the GDPR does not necessarily mean that erasure and destruction are identical.

[Read more](#)

Cyprus

Transfers of personal data from cyprus to third countries

Beyond the GDPR, Cyprus has enacted legislation that further regulates the conditions and mechanics of transferring special categories of personal data from Cyprus to third countries and the involvement of the office of the commissioner of personal data protection in Cyprus (CPDP) in that process.

[Read more](#)

Germany

Employees' consent to data processing soon to be made electronic under German data protection law

For employment-related data processing, employers in Germany are regularly required to obtain consent from their employees with a signature. This additional administrative burden may soon be a thing of the past, according to the recently approved draft law for the second data protection adaptation and implementation act.

[Read more](#)

Ireland

Data Protection Commission criticised as WhatsApp decision nears

Data protection authorities in Europe issued fines worth a combined €410 million to organisations last year for violations but none originated in the Republic, despite it being home to many of the world's biggest technology companies.

[Read more](#)

Major Boost for Standard Contractual Clauses Challenged by the Schrems 2.0 Case, but More Uncertainty for the Privacy Shield

The future of the Privacy Shield remains uncertain. It is an open question whether the CJEU would provide answers to the questions concerning the Privacy Shield; if it follows the AG's recommendation, it might stop short of addressing these.

[Read more](#)

Malta

Legal updates to Malta's data protection regime

New legislation regarding GDPR in Malta includes permitting certain secondary processing of personal data in the health sector.

Turkey

Cross-border transfers of personal data under Turkish law

Given the fact that cross-border flow of personal data has become more frequent and much more sophisticated, with the advent of digital technology, international companies should be vigilant in adopting the appropriate data transfer mechanisms in every jurisdiction they operate in, as non-compliance with local data protection regulations may result in large fines and reputational damage.

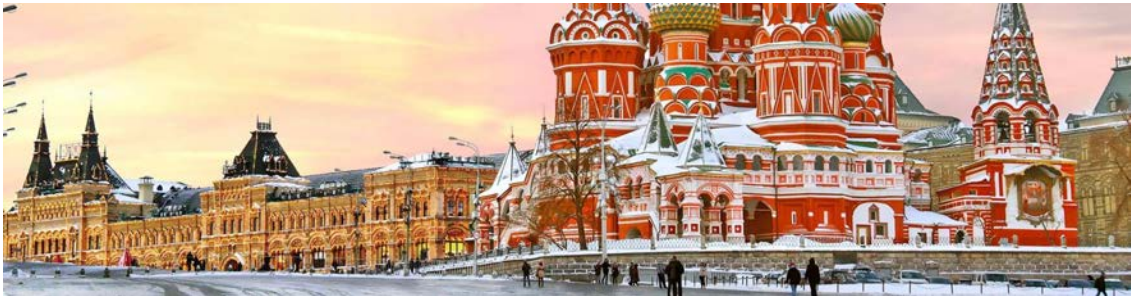
[Read more](#)

Data protection authority addresses GDPR based privacy notices

The Turkish data protection authority published an announcement, providing further guidance on data controllers' obligation to inform data subjects about data collection provided under article 10 of law no. 6698 on the protection of personal data.

[Read more](#)

Russia

[Back to menu](#)

Russia adopts increased fines for data protection violations

The Russian state's Duma has passed a bill that would increase the minimum fines that may be imposed for violations of Russia's data protection laws.

[Read more](#)

South America

[Back to menu](#)



Latin America to bolster data protection in a legal overhaul

The general data protection regulation (GDPR) has prompted a series of legislative proposals in Latin American countries to update data protection regulations, many of which reflect the higher standards of the GDPR.

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Contact Us

Our offices are open: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm (UK time)

General Enquiries

+44 (0) 1234 339 339

info@verifile.co.uk

Client Services

+44 (0) 1234 339 350

service@verifile.co.uk

Sales

+44 (0) 1234 60 80 90

sales@verifile.co.uk

Candidate Team

+44 (0) 1234 339 300

service@verifile.co.uk

Fax: +44 (0) 208 610 4880

Please note that calls to our client & candidate services may be monitored or recorded

Verifile HQ
5 Franklin Court
Stannard Way
Priory Business Park
Bedford
MK44 3JZ



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Verifile · 5 franklin court · Stannard Way, Priory business park · Bedford, MK44 3JZ · United Kingdom