**Information Governance, Data Protection and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Information Governance is the term used for all processes involving information or data handling. Compliance with the GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA18), the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, confidentiality and security of information must all be considered carefully when reviewing information provision and disclosure in relation to research.

The GDPR and the DPA18 came into force on 25 May 2018. Together they provide the framework for data protection compliance in the UK and apply to all activities involving the [processing](https://www.york.ac.uk/records-management/dp/glossary/) of personal data. This means if your research involves human participants, you must comply with both pieces of legislation.

The GDPR reflects longstanding good clinical practice such as Ethics and HRA approvals, research and information governance and the common practice of anonymizing data. GDPR is about being lawful, transparent and fair when collecting, using or processing personal data in line with the safeguards used in research.

GDPR applies to all personal data collected form an individual. You must have a lawful basis for processing the data, consent must be informed and given freely by the individual whose data you wish to collect, the participant has the right to be informed; which means transparency over how you will use their data; and the participant has the right to access their data and rectify if it is inaccurate or incomplete and can ask for its deletion or removal where there is no valid reason for its continued processing.

For further reading the HRA website has useful guidance on GDPR

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/data-protection-and-information-governance/gdpr-guidance/>