



DUAA IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER (as at 6 February 2026)

Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 commencement dates and related ICO guidance tracker			
Key:			
	In force		
Definitions:			
2018 Act means the Data Protection Act 2018.			
DUAA means Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.			
PECR means the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003.			
UK GDPR means the EU GDPR as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.			
DATE	UPDATE/GUIDANCE/DUAA MEASURES	SOURCE/REF/DETAIL	
1 January 2024	<u>Treated as having come into force retroactively:</u> Section 78: Amends Article 15 (UK GDPR) (right of access by the data subject), confirming that controllers need only conduct a "reasonable and proportionate search" on receiving subject access requests.	Section 78	
19 June 2025	<u>DUAA becomes Law.</u>	Data (Use and Access) Act 2025	
19 June 2025	<u>The following DUAA provisions come into force immediately upon Royal Assent:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 66: meaning of "the 2018 Act" and "the UK GDPR". + Section 78: searches in response to data subjects' requests. + Part 1 of Schedule 16: grant of smart meter communication licences and section 22 so far as relating to that Part of that Schedule. + Section 126: retention of biometric data and recordable offences. + Section 127: retention of pseudonymised biometric data. + Section 128: retention of biometric data from INTERPOL. + Part 8 (Final provisions): Includes the Secretary of State's powers to make consequential amendments, regulations under the DUAA, commencement provision, and transitional, transitory and saving provisions. + Any other provision of the DUAA (including provisions modifying other legislation) conferring power to make regulations or is otherwise necessary for enabling the exercise of such a power on or after the day on which the DUAA is passed. 	Section 142(2)	

Stage 1 DUAA plans for commencement – GOV.UK

Commencement of technical provisions which clarify aspects of the legal framework; and measures requiring the government to publish an impact assessment, a report and a progress update on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and copyright issues.

<p>21 July 2025</p>	<p>The Commencement No 1 Regulations are made, which bring certain provisions of DUAA into force on 20 August 2025 (see below).</p>	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No 1) Regulations 2025</p>
<p>19 August 2025</p>	<p><u>Section 142(3) brings the following provisions into force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 69 (consent to law enforcement processing): amends definition of consent for law enforcement processing by a competent authority in Part 3 of the 2018 ACT to align it with the UK GDPR definition. + Section 82 (logging of law enforcement processing): removes the requirement in section 62 of Part 3 to the 2018 Act for a competent authority to record a "justification" in their logs when consulting or disclosing personal data. + Section 96 (notices from the Information Commissioner): replaces existing provisions in section 141 of the 2018 Act with a new section 141A on the ways in which the ICO can serve notices and clarifies that notices can be served by post and email. + Section 97 (power of the Information Commissioner to require documents): amends sections 142, 143, 145, 148 and 160 and Schedule 17 of the 2018 Act. Clarifies that the ICO's information notice powers allow it to obtain documents as well as information from an individual or an organisation. 	<p>Section 142(3)</p>
<p>20 August 2025</p>	<p><u>The following provisions come into force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Part 1: Sets out rules for access to customer and business data. + Section 72: Allows data processing based on relevant international law (with some exceptions). + Section 74: Regulates processing of special categories of personal data (e.g., sensitive data). + Section 84: Addresses law enforcement data processing and related codes of conduct. + Section 91: Outlines the duties of the Commissioner in performing their functions. + Section 92: Provides for codes of practice regarding personal data processing. + Section 93: Covers how panels and impact assessments are used in developing codes of practice. + Section 95: Requires analysis of performance regarding data use and protection. + Section 102: Mandates an annual report on regulatory actions taken. + Section 104: Sets procedures for courts handling subject access requests. + Section 106: Protects prohibitions, restrictions, and data subject rights. + Section 107: Allows for regulations made by the Secretary of State under the UK GDPR. + Section 108: Further minor provisions about data protection. 	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2025</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 109: Defines PECR. + Section 110: Interpretation of PECR. + Section 111: Requires timely notification to the Commissioner of personal data breaches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - amends PECR by extending the time periods for relevant service providers to notify a personal data breach under PECR to the regulator. The change mirrors UK GDPR requirements and moves from the existing obligation to notify without undue delay or within 24 hours, to without undue delay "and, where feasible, not later than 72 hours after having become aware of it", and requiring an explanation where notification is not made within 72 hours. + Section 113: Clarifies time periods for emergency alert communications. + Section 117: Establishes the Information Commission (without function until early 2026). + Section 125: Provides for information collection to support research on online safety. + Section 129: Addresses the eIDAS Regulation (electronic identification and trust services). + Section 134: Sets time periods for the eIDAS and EITSET Regulations. + Section 135: Requires an economic impact assessment. + Section 136: Mandates a report on the use of copyright works in developing AI systems. + Section 137: Requires a progress statement on implementation. + Schedule 11: Adds further minor provisions about data protection (with some exceptions). + Schedule 14: Covers provisions related to the Information Commission. 	
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Stage 2 DUAA plans for commencement – GOV.UK

Commencement of most of the measures on digital verification services in Part 2 of the Act; and measures in Part 7 on the retention of information by providers of internet services in connection with the death of a child.

21 August 2025	<p><u>ICO open consultations on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + draft complaints guidance for organisations. + draft recognised legitimate interest guidance. + draft recognised legitimate interest guidance: requesting personal information for your public tasks or official functions. 	<p>ICO consultation on draft complaints guidance for organisations ICO</p> <p>ICO consultation on draft recognised legitimate interest guidance ICO</p> <p>ICO consultation on draft recognised legitimate interest guidance: requesting personal information for your public tasks or official functions ICO</p>
22 August 2025	<p><u>ICO opens consultation on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + "draft changes to how we handle data protection complaints". 	<p>ICO consultation on draft changes to how we</p>

		handle data protection complaints ICO
2 September 2025	The Commencement No. 2 Regulations are made which commence section 124 of the DUAA on 30 September 2025 (see below).	The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No.2) Regulations 2025
4 September 2025	The Commencement No. 3 Regulations are made to bring into force sections 79, 88, 89 and 90 of the DUAA on 5 September 2025 and 17 November 2025 (see below).	The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2025
5 September 2025	The Commencement No. 3 Regulations bring the following provisions into force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Sections 79: Data subjects' rights to information: legal professional privilege exemption. Introduces a new exemption when the personal data requested is protected by legal professional privilege. + Section 88: National security exemption. Introduces a new exemption for law enforcement processing by competent authorities when it is necessary for the purposes of safeguarding national security. 	The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2025
30 September 2025	The Commencement No. 2 Regulations bring the following provisions into force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 124: Retention of information held by providers of internet services in connection with the death of a child. Amends the Online Safety Act 2023 section 100. 	The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2025
16 October 2025	<u>ICO launches consultation on:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + New 'charitable purpose soft opt-in' rules to support fundraising under DUAA. 	ICO consultation on new electronic mail marketing rules for charities ICO
19 October 2025	<u>ICO closes consultation on:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Draft complaints guidance for organisations. 	
31 October 2025	<u>ICO launches consultation on:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Data protection enforcement procedural guidance: covering its approach to investigations and enforcement action under the UK GDPR and 2018 Act 	ICO consultation on data protection enforcement procedural guidance ICO
Autumn 2025	The ICO expected to publish guidance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Encryption. 	
30 October 2025	<u>ICO closes consultations on:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + draft recognised legitimate interest guidance. + draft recognised legitimate interest guidance: requesting personal information for your public tasks or official functions. 	
31 October 2025	<u>ICO closes consultation on:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + "draft changes to how we handle data protection complaints". 	

17 November 2025	<p><u>The Commencement No. 3 Regulations bring the following provisions into force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 89: Joint processing by intelligences services and competent authorities. + Section 90: Joint processing: consequential amendments. <p>These amend part 3 and 4 of the 2018 Act - which govern the processing of personal data for law enforcement purposes and by the intelligence services.</p>	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2025</p>
19 November 2025	<p>The Commencement No. 4 Regulations are made to bring into force the majority of Part 2 of the DUAA on 1 December 2025 (see below).</p>	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4) Regulations 2025</p>
27 November 2025	<p><u>ICO closes consultation on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + New 'charitable purpose soft opt-in' rules to support fundraising. 	
1 December 2025	<p><u>The Commencement No. 4 Regulations bring the following provisions into force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + In so far as not already in force, Part 2 of the DUAA (Digital Verification Services), except sections 45 to 48. <p>Note: Sections 45 to 48 will not commence under this set of provisions (regarding public authorities sharing information with registered digital verification service providers)</p>	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4) Regulations 2025</p> <p>Part 2 DUAA</p>
8 December 2025	<p><u>ICO published updated guidance on Right of Access:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The updates provide clear guidance on elements of the Right of Access + Updates to what is considered 'manifestly unfounded' particular emphasis on a reasonable and proportionate approach + Detailed guidance on when exemptions may apply and how to apply them to a SAR + Need to take a reasonable and proportionate effort to find the information. 	<p>Right of access ICO</p>
15 December 2025	<p>Government provided progress report to Parliament on Copyright and AI Consultation Paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The government will publish the final report by 18 March 2026 + The consultation sets out 3 objectives for reforms; Control; Access and Transparency and sought opinions from individuals + Sets out 3 broad areas for intervention and potential changes to copyright laws as well as a 'do nothing' option 	<p>section 137 DUAA</p> <p>Copyright and artificial intelligence statement of progress under Section 137 Data (Use and Access) Act - GOV.UK</p>
19 December 2025	<p>The EU/UK adequacy decisions on the free and safe flow of personal data between the European Economic Area (EEA) and the UK have been renewed until 27 December 2031.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The functioning of the adequacy decisions will be reviewed after a period of four years 	<p>Commission renews decisions to allow for the free and safe flow of personal data with the UK</p>
Winter 2025/26	<p><u>ICO to launch consultations on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Automated Decision Making (ADM) and Profiling Guidance update. + Research, Archiving and Statistics Provisions update. 	

<p>Winter 2025/26</p>	<p><u>Final versions of ICO guidance due for publication on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Complaints Guidance for organisations. + Codes of Conduct and Certification Guidance Update. + Data Sharing for Scams and Frauds. + Legitimate Interest Update. + Recognised Legitimate Interest. + Updates to Direct Marketing and Privacy and Electronic Communications Guidance. 	
<p>25 December 2025</p>	<p><u>Consequential and Other Amendments Regulations published:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + This regulation makes a number of amendments to the DPA 2018, National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000 as well as others. Such amendments will take effect only when sections 86 and 100 of the DUAA are fully in force. 	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Consequential and Other Amendments) Regulations 2025</p>
<p>Stage 3 DUAA plans for commencement – GOV.UK <i>Commencement of the main changes to data protection legislation in Part 5 of the Act (except for section 103 on complaints by data subjects). Commencement of provisions on information standards for health and adult social care in England in Part 7.</i></p>		
<p>7 January 2026</p>	<p>Commencement of the Consequential and Other Amendment Regulations.</p>	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Consequential and Other Amendments) Regulations 2025</p>
<p>15 January 2026</p>	<p><u>ICO published updated guidance on International Transfers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Clarification on how international transfers will operate under UK GDPR + Clear three step test to determine whether a transfer will be considered a restricted transfer. + Quick reference FAQs, glossary of terms and examples to reduce complexity and support understanding and compliance. 	<p>A brief guide to international transfers ICO</p>
<p>15 January 2026</p>	<p><u>Publication of the Commencement No. 5 Regulations bring the following provisions into force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 138 of DUAA: amends the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and criminalises creating, or a requesting the creation of, a “purported intimate image” of an adult without their consent. + The provision will come into force on 6 February 2026. 	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 5) Regulations 2026</p>
<p>23 January 2026</p>	<p><u>ICO closes consultation on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Data protection enforcement procedural guidance. 	<p>ICO consultation on data protection enforcement procedural guidance ICO</p>
<p>29 January 2026</p>	<p><u>Publication of The Commencement No.6 and Transitional and Saving Provisions Regulations.</u></p> <p>These regulations bring the majority of Part 5 of the DUAA into force on 5 February 2026.</p> <p>Some of the changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Recognised legitimate interests: a list of ‘recognised legitimate interests’ have been defined for processing personal data (e.g for national security, emergency response and safeguarding 	<p>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026</p>

	<p>vulnerable individuals) and removes the need to apply a balancing test when relying on this lawful basis for processing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Stop the Clock: The existing approach to DSAR time to respond has now been codified. For all DSAR's received on or after 5 February 2026, when a controller reasonably required further information to identify the requestor or clarify the scope this will pause the time to respond. + Automated Decision Making: An ease of restrictions around 'significant decisions' that are made solely by ADM, unless special category data is involved and so long as appropriate safeguards are still applied. + Cookies: amendments to PECR that will expand exemptions from obtaining consent when setting cookies that are focused on analytics, statistics, or certain website functionality improvements. + Organisations must have compliant complaints handling regime in place by 19 June 2026. <p>(See below for the details of each provision coming into force under these commencement regulations.)</p>	
<p>5 February 2026</p>	<p><u>The Commencement No. 6 and Transitional and Saving Provisions Regulations bring the following provisions into force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 67: meaning of research and statistical purposes (Wider definition of scientific research to include commercial and non-commercial) + Section 68: consent to processing for the purposes of scientific research (Broader consent now permitted) + Section 70: lawfulness of processing + Section 71: the purpose limitation (<i>Clarification re. compatibility of "new purpose" for further processing with original purpose</i>) + Section 72: processing in reliance on relevant international law + Section 73: elected representatives responding to requests + Section 75: fees and responses for responses to data subjects' requests about law enforcement processing + Section 76: time limits for responding to data subjects' requests (<i>Codifies "stop the clock" mechanism</i>) + Section 77: information to be provided to data subjects + Section 80: automated decision-making (<i>Restrictions eased</i>) + Section 81: data protection by design: children's higher protection matters + Section 83: general processing and codes of conduct (<i>Further reporting duty if excluding or suspending controller or processor from the code</i>) + Section 85: transfers of personal data to third countries and international organisations (<i>Data protection test: "not materially lower"</i>) + Section 86: safeguards for processing for research etc purposes (<i>Additional requirements and safeguards when processing for Research, Archives and Statistic purposes</i>) + Section 87: section 86: consequential provision + Section 94: manifestly unfounded or excessive requests to the Commissioner 	<p><u>The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Section 98: power of the Commissioner to require a report (<i>Enhanced enforcement power of Commissioner to require a report</i>) + Section 99: assessment notices: removal of OFSTED restriction + Section 100: interview notices (<i>Enhanced enforcement power of Commissioner to issue interview notices</i>) + Section 101: penalty notices (<i>Enhanced enforcement power of Commissioner to issue penalty notices</i>) + Section 105: consequential amendments to the EITSET Regulations + Section 110: additional information when interpreting the PEC Regulations + Section 112: obligations and expansion of exemptions when storing information in the terminal equipment of a subscriber or user (<i>Easing restrictions on use of Cookies for website functionality, analytics and statistical purposes</i>) + Section 114: use of electronic mail for direct marketing by charities (<i>Permits charities to rely on soft opt-in</i>) + Section 115: modification of Commissioner’s enforcement powers + Section 116: codes of conduct (<i>applying to the Commissioner</i>) + Section 120: transfer of property etc to the Information Commission + Section 121: information standards for health and adult social care in England + Section 130: recognition of EU conformity assessment bodies + Section 132: recognition of overseas trust products + Subsection (4) of section 133: co-operation between supervisory authority and overseas authorities + Schedule 4: lawfulness of processing: recognised legitimate interests (<i>Sets out list of “recognised legitimate interests”</i>) + Schedule 5: purpose limitation: processing to be treated as compatible with original purpose + Schedule 6: automated decision-making: minor and consequential amendments + Schedule 7: transfers of personal data to third countries etc: general processing + Schedule 8: transfers of personal data to third countries etc: law enforcement processing + Schedule 9: transfers of personal data to third countries etc: minor and consequential amendments and transitional provision + Schedule 11: further minor provision about data protection, except paragraph 32 + Schedule 12: storing information in the terminal equipment of a subscriber or user + Schedule 13: privacy and electronic communications: Commissioner’s enforcement powers + Schedule 15: information standards for health and adult social care in England 	
<p>6 February 2026</p>	<p><u>Section 138 of DUAA comes into force.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 138 DUAA</u></p>

Stage 4

DUAA plans for commencement - GOV.UK

Commencement of provisions that require a longer lead-in time. E.g. National Underground Register in Part 3 of the Act, and the electronic system of registering births and deaths in Part 4, which rely on appropriate technology being in place.

Spring 2026	ICO to release updated Automated Decision-Making (ADM) and Profiling Guidance.	Technology ICO
By 19 March 2026	<u>Government required to publish:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ a report on the use of copyright works in the development of AI systems; and+ an assessment of the economic impact of the Copyright and AI Consultation Paper.	section 136 DUAA section 135 DUAA
19 June 2026	<u>Commencement regulations No.6 bring the following provisions under Part 5 into force:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Section 103: complaints by data subjects+ Schedule 10: complaints: minor and consequential amendment These provisions require controllers to establish processes for handling complaints from data subjects.	The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026
By Summer 2026	Changes to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) governance structures in Part 6 of the Act will take place once members of the Information Commission's new Board have been appointed. This is expected to be completed by Summer 2026.	Data Use and Access Act 2025: plans for commencement - GOV.UK
Summer 2026	<u>Final versions of ICO guidance due for publication on:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Research, Archiving and Statistics Provisions update.	
"More than 6 months after Royal Assent"	<u>Provisions to be commenced relating to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Measures on the National Underground Register – Part 3.+ The electronic system for registering births and death – Part 4 [reliant on specific technology being in place].	