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GDPR Compliance Policy

Introduction

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force across the European Union on 25th May 2018 and brings with it the most significant changes to data protection law in two decades.

The 21st Century brings with it broader use of technology, new definitions of what constitutes personal data, and a vast increase in cross-border processing. The new Regulation aims to standardise data protection laws and processing across the EU; affording individuals stronger, more consistent rights to access and control their personal information.

Our Commitment

S&J Synergy Ltd are committed to ensuring the security and protection of the personal information that we process, and to provide a compliant and consistent approach to data protection. We have always had a robust and effective data protection program in place which complies with existing law and abides by the data protection principles. However, we recognise our obligations in updating and expanding this program to meet the demands of the GDPR.

S&J Synergy Ltd are dedicated to safeguarding the personal information under our remit and in developing a data protection regime that is effective, fit for purpose and demonstrates an understanding of, and appreciation for the new Regulation. Our preparation and objectives for GDPR compliance have been summarised in this statement and include the development and implementation of new data protection roles, policies, procedures, controls and measures to ensure maximum and ongoing compliance.

How We are Preparing for the GDPR

S&J Synergy Ltd already have a consistent level of data protection and security across our organisation, however it is our aim to be fully compliant or to evidence our intent for compliance with the GDPR by 25th May 2018. Our preparation includes: -

- **Information Audit** - carrying out a company-wide information audit to identify and assess what personal information we hold, where it comes from, how and why it is processed and if and to whom it is disclosed.
- **Policies & Procedures** – revising data protection policies and procedures to meet the requirements and standards of the GDPR and any relevant data protection laws, including: -
 - **Data Protection** – our main policy and procedure document for data protection has been reviewed to ensure it meets the standards and requirements of the GDPR.

- **Data Retention & Erasure** – we have updated our retention policy and schedule to ensure that we meet the ‘*data minimisation*’ and ‘*storage limitation*’ principles and that personal information is stored, archived and destroyed compliantly and ethically. We have dedicated erasure procedures in place to meet the new ‘*Right to Erasure*’ obligation and are aware of when this and other data subject’s rights apply; along with any exemptions, response timeframes and notification responsibilities.
- **Legal Basis for Processing** - we are reviewing all processing activities to identify the legal basis for processing and ensuring that each basis is appropriate for the activity it relates to. Where applicable, we also maintain records of our processing activities, ensuring that our obligations under Article 30 of the GDPR and Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Bill are met.
- **Privacy Notice/Policy** we are revising our Privacy Notice(s) to comply with the GDPR, ensuring that all individuals whose personal information we process have been informed of why we need it, how it is used, what their rights are, who the information is disclosed to and what safeguarding measures are in place to protect their information.
- **Direct Marketing** - we are revising the wording and processes for direct marketing, including clear opt-in mechanisms for marketing subscriptions; a clear notice and method for opting out and providing unsubscribe features on all subsequent marketing materials.
- **Processor Agreements** – if we were to use any third-party to process personal information on our behalf (*i.e. Payroll, Recruitment, Hosting etc*), we will draft compliant Processor Agreements and due diligence procedure for ensuring that they (*as well as we*), meet and understand their/our GDPR obligations. These measures would include initial and ongoing reviews of the service provided, the necessity of the processing activity, the technical and organisational measures in place and compliance with the GDPR.

Data Subject Rights

In addition to the policies and procedures mentioned above that ensure individuals can enforce their data protection rights, we provide easy to access information of an individual’s right to access any personal information that S&J Synergy Ltd processes about them and to request information about: -

- What personal data we hold about them
- The purposes of the processing
- The categories of personal data concerned
- The recipients to whom the personal data has/will be disclosed
- How long we intend to store your personal data for
- If we did not collect the data directly from them, information about the source
- The right to have incomplete or inaccurate data about them corrected or completed and the process for requesting this
- The right to request erasure of personal data (*where applicable*) or to restrict processing in accordance with data protection laws, as well as to object to any direct marketing from us and to be informed about any automated decision-making that we use
- The right to lodge a complaint or seek judicial remedy and who to contact in such instances

GDPR Roles and Employees

S&J Synergy Ltd have designated Jill Gibson as our Data Protection Officer (DPO) who along with Jane Innes developed and implemented our system for complying with the new data protection Regulation. The team are responsible for promoting awareness of the GDPR across the organisation, assessing our GDPR readiness, identifying any gap areas and implementing the new policies, procedures and measures.