



GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2025

Entry Form

To submit an entry to the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards, please complete and email this form to secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org **no later than 16 June 2025**.

Note: GPA member authorities can submit as many entries as they wish, but a separate form should be used for each different entry, submitted by the deadline above.

Languages: The GPA documentation Rule 6.2¹ applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY

Privacy/Data Protection Authority:	UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	
Person completing this form:	Liam	Duncan
	<i>First name</i>	<i>Last name</i>
Job title:	Head of Regulatory Assurance	
Email address:	Liam.Duncan@ico.org.uk / gpa@ico.org.uk (please use both email addresses in all correspondence with the ICO)	

2. ELIGIBILITY

By submitting this entry, I confirm that (*please tick all boxes to confirm*):

- ☒ The Authority is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly
- ☒ The initiative described in this entry was undertaken before 16 June 2025.
- ☒ I am aware that the information in the entry (other than the contact details in 1(a) above) will be publicised by the GPA Secretariat.

3. CATEGORIES

Please indicate which category you wish to enter.

*Please tick **one**; please use a separate form for each category you wish to enter:*

- ☐ Education and Public Awareness
- ☒ Accountability
- ☐ Dispute Resolution and Enforcement
- ☐ Innovation
- ☐ People's Choice

¹ [GPA Rules and Procedures](#), Rule 6.2 'Assembly documents':

Without prejudice to section 4.2, Assembly documents, including accreditation and observer applications may be submitted in English or in another language. In the latter case, the documents shall be accompanied by an English version. Members with the ability and the resources to do so are encouraged to translate proposed resolutions and other Assembly documents such as the Assembly Rules and Procedures.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

a. Please provide a brief summary of the initiative (no more than 75 words)

In October 2024 the ICO launched its Data Protection Audit Framework, a collection of audit toolkits that would allow organisations to assess their compliance with data protection legislation, identify any actions needed to improve, and track the completion of those actions.

The aim was to develop a tool that would equip organisations to better manage and improve their own compliance with data protection legislation and embrace data protection as an asset, not just a legal requirement.

b. Please provide a full description of the initiative (no more than 350 words)

The ICO has been conducting data protection audits for over 20 years, assessing organisations' compliance with data protection legislation and alignment with best practice, to assist organisations to improve their data protection practices.

The ICO has now leveraged this knowledge and expertise by publishing its audit toolkits, in the form of the Data Protection Audit Framework, to equip organisations with a powerful tool to better manage and improve their data protection compliance and, ultimately, benefit data subjects.

The ICO's Data Protection Audit Framework consists of nine audit toolkits, based upon the toolkits that the ICO uses when conducting its own compliance audits of organisations, covering the following areas: Accountability, Records management, Information and Cyber Security, Training and Awareness, Data Sharing, Requests for Data, Personal Data Breach Management, Artificial Intelligence, and Age-Appropriate Design.

Each toolkit consists of:

- Some of our audit "control measures". These are examples of measures that organisations should have in place to manage data protection risks and ensure they are effectively complying with data protection law.
- A list of ways in which they can meet the ICO's expectations in relation to each of the "control measures". The toolkits list the most likely ways to meet ICO expectations.
- Additional options to consider based on examples of good practice we've seen during our audits.

We suggest that organisations start with the Accountability toolkit to assess their accountability measures. This toolkit supports the foundations of an effective privacy management programme. The other eight toolkits take a more in depth look into specific areas of data protection law and allow the organisation to audit their compliance in more detail.

To further help organisations to audit, report and improve on their data protection compliance each toolkit is supported by a downloadable tracker which helps the

organisation to conduct the assessment and then to track any actions that they plan to take to address any areas that are in need of improvement.

c. Please explain why you think the initiative deserves to be recognised by an award
(no more than 200 words)

The ICO has taken an innovative approach to improve organisations' accountability by creating the Data Protection Audit Framework, an audit tool that allows them to manage their own data protection compliance, enabling them to identify and focus on areas requiring improvement and make better investment decisions. This ultimately benefits data subjects by ensuring that their information is better protected and more secure.

This approach allows the ICO to reach a wider audience than it would be otherwise be able to do by carrying out audits with its own resources and allows more organisations to benefit from the ICO's audit expertise.

The Data Protection Audit Framework has been well received with thousands of visitors accessing the webpages since they were launched and with positive feedback received from users.

d. Please include a photograph or image, if you wish *(This will be published with your entry on the GPA website. The image can be pasted into the box below, be sent as an attachment or a link may be provided)*

e. Please provide the most relevant link on the authority's website to the initiative, if applicable *(The website content does not need to be in English)*

[Data protection audit framework | ICO](#)

f. Please provide any other relevant links that help explain the initiative or its impact or success *(e.g. links to news reports or articles):*

[Ask the experts: using the ICO's data protection audit tools on Vimeo](#)

This is a recording of a seminar delivered at the ICO's annual Data Protection Practitioner's Conference, in October 2024, launching the Data Protection Assurance Framework and explaining how it could be used in practice.