

UPDATE CIRCULAR 013/2021

7th July 2021

To: GCBx/CBs/GFs/ICs

Dear colleagues,

Adequacy decision for the United Kingdom

We are pleased to inform you that on 28th June 2021, the European Commission adopted two adequacy decisions for the United Kingdom:

- An adequacy decision for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR);
- and the other for the Law Enforcement Directive.

Personal data can now flow freely from the European Union to the United Kingdom where it benefits from an essentially equivalent level of protection to that guaranteed under EU law. The adequacy decisions also facilitate the correct implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which foresees the exchange of personal information, for example for cooperation on judicial matters.

Both adequacy decisions include strong safeguards in case of future divergence such as a 'sunset clause', which limits the duration of adequacy to four years. It is also important to note that the UK's data protection system continues to be based on the same rules that were applicable when the UK was a Member State of the EU. The UK has fully incorporated the principles, rights and obligations of the GDPR and the Law Enforcement Directive into its post-Brexit legal system.

Yours sincerely,

Secretariat

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https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/decision-adequate-protection-personal-data-united-kingdom-general-data-protection-regulation_en

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3183