



Severn Group

Employee Data Protection Policy

AUGUST 2023

Employee Data Protection Policy

At Contour Technologies Limited and its subsidiaries, (hereafter known as Severn Group), we collect and process information about individuals (i.e. 'personal data') for business purposes, including employment and HR administration, provision of our services, marketing, and business administration. This includes personal data relating to our staff, customers, suppliers and other third parties.

Compliance with data protection law is essential to ensure that personal data remains safe, our business operations are secure and the rights of individuals are respected. Severn Group is a controller under data protection law, meaning it decides how and why it uses personal data. This Policy explains our procedures for complying with data protection law in relation to personal data. It also sets out your obligations whenever you are processing any personal data in the course of your employment.

Who does this Policy apply to?

This Policy applies to all employees, workers, contractors, agency workers, consultants, and directors and others employed or engaged by Severn Group, together referred to as 'employees' or 'you'.

Who is responsible for data protection at the Severn Group?

The Board is ultimately responsible for Severn Group's compliance with applicable data protection law. All employees at Severn Group have some responsibility for ensuring that personal data is kept secure and processed in a lawful manner. Certain employees will have particular responsibilities, of which they will be aware and may receive specific instructions.

If you have any questions or concerns about how your personal data is being used by Severn Group you can contact Severn Group's Data Protection Officer (DPO) on dpo@severnvalve.com.

The DPO is responsible for overseeing this Employee Data Protection Policy.

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What are the consequences of not complying with our data protection obligations?

Data protection law in the UK is regulated and enforced by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The relevant legislation in the UK safeguarding personal data is the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). Failure to comply with data protection law may expose Severn Group to serious legal liabilities. These can include criminal offences and fines of up to £17.5 million or 4% of total worldwide annual turnover, whichever is higher. Severn Group expects all entities to adhere to these data protection laws as best practice.

Failure to comply with your obligations under this Policy could lead to disciplinary action and, in serious cases, it could result in the termination of your employment.

What is personal data?

Personal data means any information relating to any natural person (also known as a 'data subject') who can be identified (directly or indirectly) from that data alone or in combination with other identifiers that we possess or can reasonably access (e.g. name, NI number, employee number, email address, physical features). Relevant individuals can include your colleagues, consumers, members of the public, business contacts, etc. Personal data can be factual (e.g. contact details or date of birth), an opinion about a person's actions or behaviour, or information that may otherwise impact on that individual. It can be personal or business related.

Personal data may be automated (e.g. electronic records such as computer files or in emails) or in manual records which are part of a filing system or are intended to form part of a filing system (e.g. structured paper files and archives).

What does 'processing' personal data mean?

'Processing' or to 'process' personal data means any activity that involves the use of personal data (e.g. obtaining, recording or holding the data, amending, retrieving, using, disclosing, sharing, erasing or destroying). It also means sending or transferring personal data to third parties.

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Data Protection Obligations

Severn Group is responsible for and must be able to demonstrate compliance with data protection law. To ensure that Severn Group meets its responsibilities it is essential that our employees comply with data protection law and any other Severn Group policies, guidelines or instructions relating to personal data when processing personal data in the course of their employment.

We have set out below the key data protection principles and obligations under data protection law and details of how Severn Group requires you to comply with these requirements.

1. Process personal data in a fair, lawful and transparent manner

Legal grounds for processing

Data protection law allows us to process personal data only where there are fair and legal grounds which justify using the information.

Examples of legal grounds for processing personal data include the following (at least one of these must be satisfied for each processing activity):

- complying with a legal obligation (e.g. health and safety or tax laws);
- entering into or performing a contract with the individual (e.g. an employee's terms and conditions of employment, or a contract for services with an individual customer);
- acting in Severn Group's legitimate interests (e.g. maintaining records of business activities, monitoring business productivity);
- to protect the individual's vital interests (e.g. to protect someone's life); and
- obtaining the consent of the individual (e.g. for sending direct marketing communications).

Where consent is relied upon, it must be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous, and Severn Group must effectively demonstrate that consent has been given. An individual must be able to easily withdraw their consent to processing at any time.

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Transparency

Data protection law also requires us to process personal data in a transparent manner by providing individuals with appropriate, clear and concise information about how we process their personal data.

We usually provide individuals with basic information about how we use their data on forms which collect data (such as application forms or website forms), and in longer privacy notices setting out details including: the types of personal data that we hold about them, how we use it, our legal grounds for processing the information, who we might share it with and how long we keep it for. For example, we provide information about our processing of employees' personal data in our Employee Privacy Notice and Data Retention Guidelines.

We supplement these notices, where appropriate, with reminders or additional information at the time particular processing activities take place or become relevant for an individual (for example when they sign up for a new service or event).

What you need to do:

By processing personal data only in accordance with your lawful job duties and Severn Group instructions, ordinarily, you will be processing personal data fairly and lawfully.

The standard privacy notices and statements that we issue, for example, to employees, customers and the public, ensure that individuals have appropriate information about how you are handling their personal data in the course of your employment. However, you should consider whether reminders or additional information may be appropriate at the time particular processing activities take place. This is particularly important if you think that individuals may need further assistance to understand clearly how their data will be used as part of such activities.

Any new forms which collect personal data and any proposed consent wording must be approved in advance by the nominated data protection contact at each subsidiary of the Severn Group.

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If you have any concerns about the legal grounds for processing personal data or if you are unsure whether individuals have been provided with appropriate information (in particular in relation to any new processing activities), please check with the DPO.

2. Take extra care when handling sensitive or special categories of personal data and criminal convictions data

Some categories of personal data are 'special' because they are particularly sensitive. These include information that reveals details of an individual's:

- racial or ethnic origin;
- political opinions;
- religious or philosophical beliefs;
- trade union membership;
- physical or mental health;
- sexual life or sexual orientation;
- biometric or genetic data (if used to identify that individual); and
- criminal offences or convictions.

Where special category personal data is concerned, data protection law requires us to have (as well as one of the legal grounds described in section 1), an additional legal ground to justify using this sensitive information. The appropriate legal ground will depend on the circumstances.

Criminal convictions and offences data can only be processed if the processing is necessary for the purposes of performing or exercising obligations or rights which are imposed by law on Severn Group or the individual in connection with the employment. Additional safeguards are in place for this type of personal data and Severn Group have a separate procedure in place in respect of this data.

Additional legal grounds for processing special category data include the following. Those marked with an asterisk (*) would be particularly relevant to processing employees' special category personal data:

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- complying with an obligation/exercising a right in the field of employment law*;
- assessing working capacity (based on expert medical opinion, and subject to obligations of confidentiality)*;
- carrying out equal opportunities monitoring in relation to racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, health or sexual orientation*;
- exercising, establishing or defending legal claims*;
- preventing or detecting unlawful acts; or
- explicit consent of the individual (as well as the requirements for consent outlined in section 1 above, this requires an express statement from the individual that their special category of data may be used for the intended purposes).

What you need to do:

If you are handling special category personal data in the course of your employment, you need to take extra care regarding compliance with data protection law. In particular, try to ensure that:

- any processing activities are strictly in accordance with your lawful job duties and Severn Group instructions;
- there are appropriate legal grounds for processing the data (both basic grounds under section 1 and additional grounds under this section) which have been assessed for your specific activities;
- individuals have received adequate information regarding how their data is being handled. In some cases an existing privacy notice may need to be supplemented with more specific information regarding special category data (e.g. when Severn Group is managing sickness absence and/or making adjustments to job duties for employees with disabilities or serious illness, we may provide additional ad hoc privacy notices to supplement the Employee Privacy Notice);
- you apply additional security and confidentiality measures, taking into account that the impact on individuals of loss or misuse of their special category data may be greater than with other types of data and;
- if you are relying on consent as a legal ground for processing, you should obtain advance approval of any consent wording from the DPO.

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If you are routinely handling special category data as part of the requirements of your role and job duties, Severn Group will ordinarily have put in place procedures which ensure that your processing activities satisfy the requirements above.

However, if alternative circumstances apply (e.g. you are involved in a new project or updating an existing system which involves new types of processing of special category data), please contact the DPO.

Similarly, if you have any concerns over the legal grounds that apply when you are processing special category data or the appropriate information to be provided to individuals, please get in touch with the DPO.

3.Only process personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes

Severn Group will only process personal data in accordance with our legitimate purposes to carry out our business operations and to administer employment and other business relationships.

What you need to do:

You must only use the personal data that you process in the course of your duties for Severn Group's legitimate and authorised purposes. You must not process personal data for any purposes which are unrelated to your job duties.

Processing personal data for any incompatible or unauthorised purposes could result in a breach of data protection law (e.g. using Severn Group contacts database to find out a colleague's home address for private, non-work related purposes). This may have potentially damaging consequences for all parties concerned, including disciplinary action.

If you find that you need to process personal data for a different purpose from that for which it was originally collected, you must check whether the individuals have been informed and, if not, consider whether the additional purpose is legitimate (in the context of Severn Group's business activities and compatible with the original purpose).

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If you are unsure about whether the purposes for processing are legitimate, you should contact the DPO.

4. Make sure that personal data is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for your legitimate purposes

Data protection law requires us to ensure that, when we process personal data, it is adequate, relevant to our purposes and limited to what is necessary for those purposes (also known as 'data minimisation'). In other words, we ask for the information we need for our legitimate business purposes, but we won't ask for more information than we need in order to carry out our business operations.

What you need to do:

You should try to ensure that you only acquire and process the personal data that you actually need for Severn Group's legitimate and authorised purposes within the scope of your role.

If you are creating forms that collect personal data, you should be able to justify why each specific category of data is being requested.

You must also comply with Severn Group's instructions about data retention and storage, ensuring that personal data is only kept for as long as it is needed for any intended purpose.

5. Keep personal data accurate and (where necessary) up-to-date

Severn Group must take steps to ensure that personal data is accurate and (where necessary) kept up to date. For example, we request that employees provide us with any change in contact details or personal information. We also take care that decisions impacting individuals are based on accurate and up-to-date information.

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What you need to do:

When you process individuals' personal data in the course of your employment, you must make reasonable efforts to be accurate and, where necessary, keep the relevant information updated.

When collecting any personal data, try to confirm its accuracy at the outset. If you subsequently discover any inaccuracies in the personal data that you are handling, these need to be corrected or deleted without delay.

Personal data should be held in as few places as possible to avoid the risk that duplicate copies are not updated and become out of sync. You should not create additional copies of personal data, but should work from and update a single central copy where possible (in accordance with standard Severn Group procedures on retention and storage of records).

6. Keep personal data for no longer than is necessary for the identified purposes

Records containing personal data should only be kept for as long as they are needed for the identified purposes. Severn Group has in place data retention, storage and deletion policies and internal processes/guidelines regarding various types of Severn Group records and information that contains personal data.

We take appropriate steps to retain personal data only for so long as is necessary, taking into account the following criteria:

- the amount, nature, and sensitivity of the personal data;
- the risk of harm from unauthorised use or disclosure;
- the purposes for which we process the personal data and how long we need the particular data to achieve these purposes;
- how long the personal data is likely to remain accurate and up-to-date;
- for how long the personal data might be relevant to possible future legal claims; and
- any applicable legal, accounting, reporting or regulatory requirements that specify how long certain records must be kept.

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What you need to do:

Please familiarise yourself with our retention policies, processes, guidelines and instructions that are relevant to your job. Ensure that, where it falls within your responsibility, you destroy or erase all information that you no longer require in accordance with these.

If you are not sure what retention guidelines/instructions apply to you in your role, or you are unsure of how to apply them to a particular type or item of personal data, please contact the DPO.

7. Data security and confidentiality

The organisation takes the security of personal data seriously. The organisation has internal controls in place to protect personal data against loss, accidental destruction or damage, misuse or disclosure, and to ensure that data is not accessed, except by employees in the proper performance of their duties.

You must maintain security by protecting the confidentiality and availability of personal data. You must ensure that only people who have a need to know and are authorised to use the personal data access it for the purposes for which they are authorised.

At all times you must comply with our Information Security related policies and not attempt to circumvent the safeguards Severn Group implement and maintain to protect personal data and ensure compliance with relevant data protection standards.

8. Take extra care when sharing or disclosing personal data

The sharing or disclosure of personal data is a type of processing, and therefore all the principles described in this Policy need to be applied.

External data sharing

We will only share personal data with other third parties (including group entities) where we have a legitimate purpose, and an appropriate legal ground under data protection law which permits us to do so.

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Commonly, this could include situations where we are legally obliged to provide the information (e.g. to HMRC for tax purposes) or where necessary to perform our contractual duties to individuals (e.g. provision of information to our occupational pension providers).

We may appoint third party service providers (known as processors) who will handle information on our behalf, for example to provide payroll, data storage or other technology services.

Severn Group remains responsible for ensuring that its processors comply with data protection law and this policy in their handling of personal data. We must assess and apply data protection and information security measures prior to and during the appointment of a processor. The extent of these measures will vary depending on the nature of the activities, but will include appropriate risk assessments and reviews, and contractual obligations.

Details of the recipients or categories of recipients of personal data (including processors and other third parties) are set out in privacy notices as described in section 1 above.

What you need to do:

You may only disclose the personal data we hold to service providers or other third parties (including group entities) where:

- there is a legitimate purpose and an appropriate legal basis for doing so (e.g. it is necessary for them to process the personal data in order to provide a service to us such as payroll, or if we are legally obliged to do so);
- the individuals whose personal data is being shared have been properly informed (e.g. in an appropriate privacy notice);
- if the disclosure is to a service provider, Severn Group has checked that adequate security and data protection measures are in place to protect the personal data concerned;
- the service provider or third party has signed up to a written contract that contains the provisions required by data protection law unless the nominated site data protection contact or the Group Data Protection Lead has determined that this is not required in context; and
- the transfer complies with any overseas transfer restrictions, if applicable.

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Routine disclosures of personal data to established recipients (e.g. payroll providers or group entities) which form a normal and regular part of your role and job duties will ordinarily satisfy the above requirements. You should always ensure you comply with any particular Severn Group instructions you are given. However, if you are in any doubt as to whether you can share personal data with anyone else, first contact the DPO.

9. Do not transfer personal data to another country unless there are appropriate safeguards in place

An overseas transfer of personal data takes place when the data is transmitted or sent to, viewed, accessed or otherwise processed in, a different country.

To ensure that data protection is not compromised when personal data is transferred to another country, Severn Group assesses the risks of any transfer of personal data outside of the UK (taking into account the principles in this Policy) and puts in place additional appropriate safeguards where required.

What you need to do:

If you are required to transfer individuals' personal data outside of the UK in the course of your employment, adequate safeguards will need to be in place. Where these overseas transfers are a normal part of your role and job duties, Severn Group's current safeguards are likely to provide the required levels of data protection.

However, if you are transferring personal data overseas in alternative circumstances (e.g. for new types of processing activities which haven't previously formed part of your job scope and activities, or to countries with which you haven't previously dealt) you should contact the DPO.

10. Report any data protection breaches without delay

Severn Group takes any data protection breaches very seriously.

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These can include lost or mislaid equipment or data, use of inaccurate or excessive data, failure to address an individual's rights, accidental sending of data to the wrong person, unauthorised access to, use of or disclosure of data, deliberate attacks on the Group's systems or theft of records, and any equivalent breaches by the Group's service providers.

Where there has been a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of or access to individuals' personal data, Severn Group will take immediate steps to identify, assess and address it, including containing the risks, remedying the breach, and notifying appropriate parties (see below). Severn Group has a Breach Management Procedure which sets out its procedures for identifying, assessing and addressing security breaches.

If Severn Group discovers that there has been a personal data security breach, we will report it where necessary to the ICO within 72 hours of discovery.

We also keep an internal record of all personal data breaches regardless of their effect and whether or not we report them to the ICO.

If a personal data breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, we will tell affected individuals that there has been a breach and provide them with information about its likely consequences and the mitigation measures we have taken.

What you need to do:

If you become aware of any breach (or suspected breach) of this Policy (including, in particular any security breach), you must report it to the nominated site data protection contact or the Group Data Protection Lead immediately, and take any other required steps in accordance with our Breach Management Procedure to ensure that the breach is effectively assessed and addressed, and that we comply with Severn Group's data breach reporting obligations.

11. Do not use profiling or automated decision-making unless you are authorised to do so

Profiling, or automated decision-making, occurs where an individual's personal data is processed and evaluated by automated means resulting in an important decision being taken in relation to that individual.

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This poses particular risks for individuals where a decision is based solely on that profiling or other automated processing.

One example of solely automated decision-making would be using an online psychometric test to automatically reject job applicants who do not meet a minimum pass mark (without any human oversight such as a review of the test results by a recruiting manager).

Data protection law prohibits decision-making based solely on profiling or other automated processing, except in very limited circumstances. In addition, where profiling or other automated decision-making is permitted, safeguards must be put in place and we must give individuals the opportunity to express their point of view and challenge the decision. We do not generally conduct profiling or other automated decision-making in respect of employees' personal data.

What you need to do:

If you conduct profiling or other automated decision-making in the course of your role, you must familiarise yourself with and implement any applicable safeguards.

If you are proposing to undertake any new automated decision-making or profiling activities in the course of your employment, please contact the nominated site data protection contact or the Group Data Protection Lead who will advise you whether it is permitted and about the safeguards you need to put in place.

12. Integrate data protection into operations : Privacy by Design and Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

Data protection law requires Severn Group to build data protection considerations and security measures into all of our operations that involve the processing of personal data, particularly at the start of a new project or activity which may impact on the privacy of individuals. This involves taking into account various factors including:

- the risks (and their likelihood and severity) posed by the processing for the rights and freedoms of individuals;
- technological capabilities;
- the cost of implementation; and
- the nature, scope, context and purposes of the processing of personal data.

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We also seek to assess data protection risks regularly throughout the lifecycle of any project or activity which involves the use of personal data.

What you need to do:

If you are involved in the design or implementation of a new substantial major systems or business change project or activity that involves processing personal data, you must give due consideration to all the principles of data protection set out in this policy.

You should assist the DPO with regular reviews of projects or activities to ensure data protection risks continue to be addressed.

A useful tool for assessing data protection and privacy considerations is a Data Protection Impact Assessment or 'DPIA'. A DPIA will consider the necessity and proportionality of a processing operation, and assess the risks to individuals and the measures that can be put in place to mitigate those risks. A DPIA must be carried out if a data processing operation is likely to give rise to a high risk to individual rights and freedoms.

If you are involved in the design or implementation of a new project that involves processing personal data, you must check whether it is necessary to conduct a DPIA or similar risk or compliance assessment by contacting the DPO. They will be able to advise you on how we expect you to conduct, or otherwise contribute to, a DPIA or similar risk assessment.

Individual rights and requests

Under data protection law, individuals have certain rights when it comes to how we handle their personal data. For example, an individual has the following rights:

- The right to make a 'subject access request'. This entitles an individual to receive a copy of the personal data we hold about them, together with information about how and why we process it and other rights which they have (as outlined below). This enables them, for example, to check we are lawfully processing their data and to correct any inaccuracies.
- The right to request that we correct incomplete or inaccurate personal data that we hold about them.

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- The right to withdraw any consent which they have given.
- The right to request that we delete or remove personal data that we hold about them where there is no good reason for us continuing to process it. Individuals also have the right to ask us to delete or remove their personal data where they have exercised their right to object to processing (see below).
- The right to object to our processing of their personal data for direct marketing purposes, or where we are relying on our legitimate interest (or those of a third party), where we cannot show a compelling reason to continue the processing.
- The right to request that we restrict our processing of their personal data. This enables individuals to ask us to suspend the processing of personal data about them, for example if they want us to establish its accuracy or the reason for processing it.
- The right to request that we transfer to them or another party, in a structured format, their personal data which they have provided to us (also known as the right to 'data portability'). The applicability of this right depends on the legal grounds on which we process it.
- The right to challenge a decision based solely on profiling/automated processing, to obtain human intervention, and to express their point of view.
- The right to be notified of a personal data breach likely to result in high risk to the rights and freedoms of the individual.
- The right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress to the individual or anyone else.
- The right to request information about our processing activities involving agreements under which personal data is transferred outside the UK.

We are required to comply with these rights without undue delay and, in respect of certain rights, within a one month timeframe.

Individuals also have rights to complain to the ICO about, and to take action in court to enforce their rights and seek compensation for damage suffered from, any breaches.

What you need to do:

If you receive a request from an individual seeking to exercise a right in relation to their personal data, or making an enquiry or complaint about our use of their personal data, you must forward the request, enquiry or complaint to the DPO immediately so that it can be dealt with appropriately and within the applicable time limit.

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Your assistance may be needed to address and respond to the request, enquiry or complaint.

Record keeping

In order to comply, and demonstrate our compliance, with data protection law, Severn Group keeps various records of our data processing activities. These include a Data Log which must contain, as a minimum: the purposes of processing; categories of data subjects and personal data; individuals consent to processing; categories of recipients of disclosures of data; information about international data transfers; envisaged retention periods; general descriptions of security measures applied; and certain additional details for special category data.

What you need to do:

You must also comply with our applicable processes, guidelines and any specific instructions you are given concerning the keeping of records about our processing of personal data.

If you are processing individuals' personal data in the course of your employment and you collect any new types of personal data or undertake any new types of processing activities, either through the introduction of new systems or technology or by amending existing ones, please inform the DPO so that we are able to keep our records up-to-date.

Training

We will require employees to undergo awareness training to enable them to comply with data protection law. Specific training may be required for job roles and activities involving the use of personal data.

Departures from this Policy

There are some very limited exemptions from data protection law, which may permit departure from aspects of this Policy in certain circumstances.

You will be given specific instructions if any exemptions are relevant to your role.

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If you think you should be able to depart from this Policy in any circumstances, you must contact the DPO before taking any action.

Agreement to follow this Policy

This Policy will be kept under regular review. It does not override any applicable national data privacy protection laws and regulations in countries where Severn Group operates.

This Policy is fully supported by The Board and Executive Committee. This Policy is non-contractual and may be amended at any time. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct and the Employee Privacy Notice. All Severn Group Policies can be accessed on the Group Policy Hub.



At Severn Group, our business success flows from expertise – from technical knowledge and experience that position us as a leader in our field. Not everything, however, can be engineered. The Values which underpin that success stem instinctively from the culture we seek to sustain. Everything we do is tested against our Values, and our people are encouraged to apply them every day: they are the stewards of our brand, our reputation, our heritage, our ambitions.



Customer



Integrity



Excellence



Accountability