

**THE COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION**  
**GENERAL PRIVACY NOTICE**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Privacy Notice provides guidance and information on how the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission ("**CCPC**") collects and uses personal data.
- 1.2 The CCPC ("**us**", "**we**" or "**our**") is an independent statutory body with a mandate to enforce competition and consumer protection law in Ireland. In carrying out its statutory functions and activities, the CCPC engages with and may handle personal data relating to various different external parties, both individuals and businesses. In particular, the CCPC obtains data from individual members of the public who make complaints, enquiries or applications for authorisations to the CCPC or otherwise provide data to the CCPC. The CCPC also obtains data from businesses, companies, sole traders, partnerships, Government Departments, State bodies, State-sponsored bodies and other organisations, which may include personal data of individual contacts or officers of such entities.
- 1.3 This Privacy Notice is intended to apply to personal data connected with the aforementioned individuals and businesses. It applies whether such personal data is obtained by the CCPC on a voluntary basis or as a result of the exercise of the CCPC's statutory powers.
- 1.4 The CCPC is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. This Privacy Notice sets out the basis on which any personal data we collect from or about you in connection with the performance of the CCPC's statutory functions and activities will be processed by us. Please read this Privacy Notice carefully to understand our treatment and use of personal data.
- 1.5 In this Privacy Notice, references to "**you**" mean the person whose personal information we collect, use and process.
- 1.6 We will use your personal data only for the purposes and in the manner set forth below, which describes the steps we take to ensure the processing of your personal data is in compliance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and any related or subsequent data protection and privacy legislation and amendments, as well as European Union Law including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (known as the General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR), the Law Enforcement Directive (i.e. Directive (EU) 2016/680) and any subsequent implementing legislation and amendments (collectively referred to in this Privacy Notice as "**Data Protection Legislation**").
- 1.7 We seek to maintain the privacy, accuracy, and confidentiality of data (including your personal data) that we collect and use.

## **2. IDENTITY OF THE CONTROLLER OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

- 2.1 For the purposes of Data Protection Legislation, the Data Controller is the CCPC, which has its address at Bloom House, Railway Street, Dublin 1, D01 C576.

## **3. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE DATA PROTECTION OFFICER**

- 3.1 The contact details of the CCPC's Data Protection Officer are as follows:

Name: Maria O'Byrne  
Email Address: [dataprotection@ccpc.ie](mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie)  
Address: Bloom House, Railway Street, Dublin 1, D01 C576.

## **4. WHEN DOES THIS PRIVACY NOTICE APPLY**

- 4.1 This Privacy Notice applies to personal data that we collect, use and otherwise process about you in connection with the performance of the CCPC's statutory functions and activities.

## **5. PROCESSING OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

- 5.1 Where does the CCPC obtain my personal data from?

Most of the personal data we process is obtained from you when you provide it directly to the CCPC, but we may also obtain personal data about you from other sources in the course of the performance of our statutory functions and activities (see "Introduction" section above).

## 5.2 How and why do we process your personal data?

The personal data we collect from or about you or through our systems helps us to comply with our legal obligations or to carry out our statutory functions and activities. The personal data we collect, the basis of processing and the purposes of processing are detailed below. Sometimes, these activities may be carried out by third party service providers on behalf of the CCPC (see "Sharing of Personal Data" section below).

Source and Purpose of Processing	Basis of Processing	Categories of Data
<p><b>Requests, Queries and Complaints</b></p> <p>Information supplied by individuals or businesses who submit a request, query or complaint to the CCPC.</p> <p>This is required to enable the CCPC to: (i) deal with and respond to your request, query or complaint, (ii) ensure compliance with the CCPC's legal obligations and corporate governance requirements, and (iii) perform its statutory functions and activities.</p>	<p>Consent, where the personal data relates to the person supplying it to the CCPC and has been supplied to the CCPC voluntarily.</p> <p>In relation to other personal data (e.g. personal data relating to a third party and/or personal data which is supplied as a result of the exercise of the CCPC's statutory powers), processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC and/or to comply with legal obligations.</p>	<p>Personal data (including name, gender, address, telephone number, email address, eircode, job title) of the person submitting the request, query or complaint to the CCPC and/or of another individual (e.g. the subject of the complaint).</p>
<p><b>CCPC Enquiries and Investigations</b></p> <p>Information supplied by or obtained from individuals or businesses who are the subject of enquiries or an investigation conducted by the CCPC on its own behalf or on behalf of another agency.</p> <p>This is required to enable the CCPC to perform its statutory functions and activities.</p>	<p>Consent, where the personal data relates to the person supplying it to the CCPC and has been supplied to the CCPC voluntarily.</p> <p>In relation to other personal data (e.g. personal data relating to a third party and/or personal data which is supplied as a result of the exercise of the CCPC's statutory powers), processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC and/or necessary to comply with legal obligations.</p>	<p>Personal data (including name, gender, address, telephone number, email address, eircode, date of birth, job title, financial information, employment information, previous criminal convictions, family details) of the person submitting the information to the CCPC and/or of another individual (e.g. employees, customers, competitors or suppliers).</p>
<p><b>Cartel Immunity Programme</b></p> <p>Information supplied to the CCPC by an applicant for immunity under the Cartel Immunity Programme.</p> <p>This is required to enable the</p>	<p>Consent, where the personal data relates to the person supplying it to the CCPC and has been supplied to the CCPC voluntarily.</p> <p>In relation to other personal data (e.g. personal data relating to a third party), processing is</p>	<p>Personal data (including name, gender, address, telephone number, email address, eircode, date of birth, job title, financial</p>

<p>CCPC to perform its statutory functions and activities.</p>	<p>necessary for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC and/or necessary to comply with legal obligations.</p>	<p>information, employment information, previous criminal convictions, family details) of the person submitting the information to the CCPC and/or of another individual (e.g. employees, customers, competitors or suppliers).</p>
<p><b>Mergers and Acquisitions</b></p> <p>Information supplied by individuals or businesses involved in a proposed merger or acquisition which is notified to the CCPC.</p> <p>This is required to enable the CCPC to: (i) ensure compliance with the CCPC's legal obligations, and (ii) perform its statutory functions and activities.</p>	<p>Consent, where the personal data relates to the person supplying it to the CCPC and has been supplied to the CCPC voluntarily.</p> <p>In relation to other personal data (e.g. personal data relating to a third party and/or personal data which is supplied as a result of the exercise of the CCPC's statutory powers), processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC and/or necessary to comply with legal obligations.</p>	<p>Personal data (including name, gender, address, telephone number, email address, eircode, job title, financial information) of the person submitting the information to the CCPC and/or of another individual (e.g. employees, customers, competitors or suppliers).</p>
<p><b>Consumer Protection Act 2007 (Grocery Goods Undertakings) Regulations 2016</b></p> <p>Information supplied by individuals or businesses who are, or who are acting on behalf of, a relevant grocery goods undertaking.</p> <p>This is required to enable the CCPC to perform its statutory functions and activities.</p>	<p>Consent, where the personal data relates to the person supplying it to the CCPC and has been supplied to the CCPC voluntarily.</p> <p>In relation to other personal data (e.g. personal data relating to a third party and/or personal data which is supplied as a result of the exercise of the CCPC's statutory powers), processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC and/or necessary to comply with legal obligations.</p>	<p>Personal data (including name, gender, address, telephone number, email address, eircode, job title, financial information) of the person submitting the information to the CCPC and/or of another individual (e.g. employees, customers, competitors or suppliers).</p>
<p><b>Responses to Consultations, Information Requests or Questionnaires issued by the CCPC</b></p> <p>Information supplied by individuals or businesses who respond to consultations, information requests or questionnaires issued by the CCPC.</p> <p>This is required to enable the</p>	<p>Consent, where the personal data relates to the person supplying it to the CCPC and has been supplied to the CCPC voluntarily.</p> <p>In relation to other personal data (e.g. personal data relating to a third party and/or personal data which is supplied as a result of the exercise of the CCPC's statutory powers), processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the</p>	<p>Personal data (including name, gender, address, telephone number, email address, eircode, job title, financial information) of the person submitting the information to the CCPC and/or of another individual (e.g.</p>

CCPC to perform its statutory functions and activities.	public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC and/or necessary to comply with legal obligations.	employees, customers, competitors or suppliers).
<p><b>Information received from Third Parties</b></p> <p>Information supplied to the CCPC by other third parties (e.g. other external bodies and agencies).</p> <p>This is required to enable the CCPC to: (i) ensure compliance with the CCPC's legal obligations, and (ii) perform its statutory functions and activities.</p>	Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC and/or to comply with legal obligations.	Personal data (including name, gender, address, telephone number, email address, eircode, date of birth, job title, financial information, employment information, previous criminal convictions, family details).
<p><b>Financial Information</b></p> <p>Details supplied for the purpose of the CCPC processing payments.</p> <p>This is required to enable the CCPC to: (i) process any payment to be made to or by you; and/or (ii) to comply with its legal obligations; or (iii) to perform its statutory functions and activities.</p>	Processing is necessary for the performance of our contract with you (if any), to comply with legal obligations and/or for the performance of a task carried out by the CCPC in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC.	Financial information (including bank account details) of the person submitting the information to the CCPC.

5.3 In some limited circumstances, we may request your explicit consent to process (specific types of) personal data. This will be predominantly where you voluntarily provide your personal data to the CCPC. In these circumstances, you are able to withdraw your consent at any time by following the instructions provided when you gave consent or at the contact details below. Consent will rarely be considered to be a basis for processing personal data gathered or obtained by the CCPC on foot of its competition or consumer protection law enforcement functions and activities.

## 6. SHARING OF PERSONAL DATA

### 6.1 Internally within the CCPC

Your personal data will be held by the Division within the CCPC which originally obtained it. Your personal data will only be shared with the Members of the CCPC and with persons in other Divisions of the CCPC in certain circumstances and where necessary and lawful to do so, i.e. it may be necessary to share your personal data with persons in other Divisions of the CCPC for the purposes of performing our statutory functions and activities.

Access to your personal data will be granted to persons within the CCPC only on a need to know basis, depending on job functions and roles.

### 6.2 Service Providers

We use third party service providers who provide services to the CCPC, including consumer helpline services, public relations services, and IT and communications services. In providing these services, your personal data will, where applicable, be processed by the service provider on our behalf.

We will check any third party service provider that we use to ensure that they can provide sufficient guarantees regarding the confidentiality and security of your personal data. We will have written contracts with them which provide assurances regarding the protections that

they will give to your personal data and their compliance with our data security standards and international transfer restrictions.

### 6.3 Disclosures to Third Parties

In certain circumstances, we share and/or are obliged to share your personal data with third parties, for the purposes described above and/or in the course of the exercise of the CCPC's statutory functions and activities. In particular, the CCPC is permitted to share certain information (which may include your personal data) with bodies with whom it has a cooperation agreement pursuant to section 19 of the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014 (referred to in this Privacy Notice as the "**2014 Act**") and/or with the bodies specified in section 24(1) of the 2014 Act. In addition, the CCPC is permitted to share information with other competition and consumer protection authorities in the European Union pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003<sup>1</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004<sup>2</sup> (as may be amended or replaced). Any disclosure of personal data by the CCPC to a third party shall be conducted in accordance with Data Protection Legislation.

These third parties may include:

- any of the bodies with whom the CCPC has entered into a cooperation agreement pursuant to section 19 of the 2014 Act;
- any of the bodies specified in section 24(1) of the 2014 Act;
- the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- the European Commission and national competition or consumer protection authorities in other EU Member States;
- the CCPC's external legal and professional advisors;
- courts and tribunals of relevant jurisdiction;
- the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and other relevant Government Departments;
- regulatory and supervisory authorities;
- banks and financial institutions;
- external auditors; and
- others, where it is permitted by law, or where we have your consent.

## 7. TRANSFERS OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

7.1 Your personal data may be transferred, stored and processed in one or more countries outside the European Economic Area ("**EEA**"), for example, when one of our third party service providers use employees or equipment based outside the EEA. For transfers of your personal data to third parties outside of the EEA, we take additional steps in line with Data Protection Legislation. We will put in place adequate safeguards with respect to the protection of your privacy, fundamental rights and freedoms, and the exercise of your rights, e.g. we will establish an adequate level of data protection through EU Standard Contractual Clauses based on the EU Commission's model clauses.

7.2 If you would like to see a copy of any relevant provisions, please contact our Data Protection Officer (see "Contact Us" section below).

## 8. HOW IS MY PERSONAL DATA SECURED

8.1 The CCPC operates and uses appropriate technical and physical security measures to protect your personal data.

8.2 We have in particular taken appropriate security measures to protect any personal data held by the CCPC from accidental or unlawful destruction, loss or alteration, and from unauthorised

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws, which was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Co-operation between National Authorities Responsible for the Enforcement of Consumer Protection Laws) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 290/2006).

disclosure or access. Access to your personal data is only granted on a need-to-know basis to those people within the CCPC whose roles require them to process your personal data and, in certain circumstances, to third parties (see the "Sharing of Personal Data" section above). In addition, our third party service providers are also selected carefully and required to use appropriate protective measures.

- 8.3 If you would like further information about security measures applied to personal data held by the CCPC, please contact the CCPC's Data Protection Officer (see the "Contact Us" section below).

## 9. STORAGE OF PERSONAL DATA

- 9.1 We will keep your personal data for as long as it is necessary to fulfil the purposes for which it was collected as described above and in accordance with our legal and regulatory obligations. This may mean that some information is held for longer than other information. The criteria we use to determine data retention periods for personal data includes the following:

- 9.1.1 Retention in case of queries and complaints; we will retain it for a reasonable period after the query or complaint has been resolved or, if a formal investigation is opened by the CCPC in respect of the query or complaint, for a reasonable period after the conclusion of such investigation and/or any subsequent related legal proceedings;
- 9.1.2 Retention in case of investigations; we will retain it for a reasonable period after the conclusion of the investigation and/or any subsequent related legal proceedings;
- 9.1.3 Retention in case of reviews of mergers and acquisitions; we will retain it for a reasonable period after the CCPC issues its determination in relation to the merger or acquisition or, if the CCPC's decision is challenged, for a reasonable period after the conclusion of any subsequent related legal proceedings; and
- 9.1.4 Retention in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements; we will consider whether we need to retain it after the periods described in 9.1.1 to 9.1.3 above because of a legal or regulatory requirement (e.g. as set out in the National Archives Act 1986, as amended) or for the purpose of performing our statutory functions and activities.

- 9.2 If you would like further information about our data retention practices, please contact the CCPC's Data Protection Officer (see the "Contact Us" section below).

## 10. YOUR RIGHTS

- 10.1 You may have various rights under Data Protection Legislation. However, in certain circumstances, these rights may be restricted<sup>3</sup>. In particular, your rights may be restricted where this is necessary: (i) for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences; (ii) in contemplation of or for the establishment, exercise or defence of a legal claim or legal proceedings (whether before a court, tribunal, statutory body or an administrative or out-of-court procedure); and/or (iii) for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the CCPC. Therefore, the CCPC considers that, in most cases, these rights will not apply in connection with the performance of the CCPC's competition and consumer protection law enforcement functions and activities.

Subject to the above, your rights under Data Protection Legislation may include (as relevant):

Your right	What does it mean?	How do I execute this right?	Conditions to exercise?
Right of access	Subject to certain conditions, you are entitled to have access to your	Requests for such information should be made in writing to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie">dataprotection@ccpc.ie</a> .	We must be able to verify your identity. Your request may not affect the rights

<sup>3</sup> Article 23 of the General Data Protection Regulation, which is transposed into Irish law by section 59 of the Data Protection Act 2018, sets out the circumstances in which your rights may be restricted.

Your right	What does it mean?	How do I execute this right?	Conditions to exercise?
	personal data which we hold (this is more commonly known as submitting a "data subject access request").	If possible, you should specify the type of information you would like to see to ensure that our disclosure is meeting your expectations.	and freedoms of others, e.g. privacy and confidentiality rights of other individuals and/or businesses.
Right of data portability	Subject to certain conditions, you are entitled to receive the data which you have provided to us and which is processed by us by automated means, in a commonly-used machine readable format.	Requests should be made in writing to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie">dataprotection@ccpc.ie</a> . If possible, you should specify the type of information you would like to receive to ensure that our disclosure is meeting your expectations.	The GDPR does not establish a general right to data portability. This right only applies if the processing is based on your consent or on our contract with you and when the processing is carried out by automated means (e.g. not for paper records). It affects only personal data that was "provided" by you. Therefore, it does not, as a rule, apply to personal data that was created by the CCPC or supplied to the CCPC by any other individual and/or business.
Rights in relation to inaccurate personal or incomplete data	You may challenge the accuracy or completeness of personal data which we process about you. If it is found that personal data is inaccurate, you are entitled to have the inaccurate data removed, corrected or completed, as appropriate.	We encourage you to notify us of any changes regarding your personal data as soon as they occur, including changes to your contact details.  Requests should be made in writing to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie">dataprotection@ccpc.ie</a> .	This right only applies to your own personal data. When exercising this right, please be as specific as possible.
Right to object to or restrict our data processing	Subject to certain conditions, you have the right to object to or ask us to restrict the processing of your personal data.	Requests should be made in writing to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie">dataprotection@ccpc.ie</a> .	This right applies only if the processing of your personal data is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (see " <i>basis of processing</i> " above). Objections must be based on grounds



Your right	What does it mean?	How do I execute this right?	Conditions to exercise?
			relating to your particular situation. They must not be generic so that we can demonstrate that there are still lawful grounds for us to process your personal data.
Right to have personal data erased	Subject to certain conditions, you are entitled, on certain grounds, to have your personal data erased (also known as the "right to be forgotten") e.g. where you think that the information we are processing is inaccurate, or the processing is unlawful.	Requests should be made in writing to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie">dataprotection@ccpc.ie</a> .	There are various lawful reasons why we may not be in a position to erase your personal data. This may apply (i) where we have to comply with a legal obligation, (ii) in case of bringing legal proceedings (including any legal proceedings relating to an investigation conducted by the CCPC which are not brought directly by the CCPC) or defending legal proceedings, or (iii) where retention periods apply by law or under the CCPC's internal data retention policies.
Right to withdrawal	You have the right to withdraw your consent to any processing for which you have previously given that consent.	Requests should be made in writing to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie">dataprotection@ccpc.ie</a> .	If you withdraw your consent, this will only take effect for the future.

**11. YOUR RIGHT TO LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH A SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY**

- 11.1 If you are unhappy about any aspect of the way we collect, share or use your personal data, please let us know using the contact details below.
- 11.2 You also have a right to complain to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner at Canal House, Station Road, Portarlinton, Co. Laois by telephone at 1890 25 2231 and/or by email to [info@dataprotection.ie](mailto:info@dataprotection.ie).

**12. CHANGES TO THIS INFORMATION**

- 12.1 We reserve the right to change this Privacy Notice at any time in our sole discretion. If we make changes to this Privacy Notice, we will publish any relevant changes on the CCPC's public website ([www.ccpc.ie](http://www.ccpc.ie)) so that you can see what information we gather, how we might use that information and in what circumstances we may disclose it. By continuing your relationship with us after we post any such changes on our website, you accept and agree to this Privacy Notice as modified.

### **13. CONTACT US**

- 13.1 For further information or if you have any questions or queries about this Privacy Notice, please contact our Data Protection Officer Maria O'Byrne at [dataprotection@ccpc.ie](mailto:dataprotection@ccpc.ie) or alternatively you can write to us at Maria O'Byrne, Data Protection Officer, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Bloom House, Railway Street, Dublin 1, D01 C576.