

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION IN SINGAPORE

Personal Data Protection Commission

The Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) is a Singapore Government statutory body established on 2 January 2013 to administer and enforce the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 (PDPA). The other roles of PDPC include undertaking public education and engagement programmes to help organisations understand and comply with the PDPA as well as to promote greater awareness of the importance of personal data protection in Singapore.

The PDPC serves as Singapore's main authority in matters relating to personal data protection and will represent the Singapore Government internationally on data protection related issues.

In administering and enforcing the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 (PDPA), the PDPC aims to balance the need to protect individuals' personal data and the needs of organisations to use the data for legitimate purposes.

To achieve this aim, the PDPC formulates and implements policies relating to the protection of personal data, including the relevant regulations and Advisory Guidelines, to help organisations understand and comply with the PDPA.

The PDPC will also review organisational actions in relation to data protection rules and issue decisions or directions for compliance where necessary. As the PDPA is a baseline legislation, the PDPC will work with relevant sector regulators in exercising its functions.

Beyond regulating data protection issues, the PDPC also undertakes public and sector-specific educational and outreach activities to help organisations adopt good data protection practices and to help individuals to better understand how they may protect their own personal data from misuse. In addition, the PDPC oversees the development and operation of the Do Not Call (DNC) registry, to ensure a secure, convenient and reliable system for both organisations and individuals.

See more at: <http://www.pdpc.gov.sg/>

MRSS, ESOMAR AND PDPC

In addition, the PDPC oversees the development and operation of the Do Not Call (DNC) registry. In 2011 and 2012, MRSS in conjunction with ESOMAR made two submissions to the public consultation undertaken prior to drafting the Personal Data Protection Act in particular seeking exemption for legitimate market and social research from the DNC provisions.

Market and social research has been excluded although MRSS members are still bound by strict ICC/ESOMAR with respect to data privacy and respondents' rights.

If you have any concerns regarding data privacy as it applies to market and social research, please contact Greg Coops at psc@mrssingapore.org.sg