

# MAZARS DATA PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

## Issue 7



Over the last 12 weeks we have adapted to rapid change while we have confined our lives to the boundaries of our homes. With that, we have been presented with a set of unprecedented challenges as our personal space and work life merged. This has been a period of ambiguity, change and uncertainty for employees and employers alike.

### CAUTION! Cyber Criminals Exploit COVID-19 Vulnerabilities

- Cyber criminals have recognised the pandemic provides opportunities to exploit public anxiety and vulnerabilities.
- A record number of employees are currently working from home presenting cyber criminals **with new opportunities to exploit organisations cyber weaknesses**.
- Sharp increase in cyber-attacks since beginning of February; including fraudulent COVID-19 websites, phishing on corporate accounts including emails, claiming to be from World Health Organisation, and targeted malicious activity on cards due to increase in card payments.
- Security industry concern at the speed and scale at criminal adaptations to the pandemic.

### 12 Steps to Reducing Cyber Crime Risk

- 1 Enable **Multi Factor Authentication (MFA)**
- 2 Use **strong passwords** and **don't reuse old ones**
- 3 Step up **staff awareness** of increased phishing threat
- 4 **Test incident response** procedures
- 5 **Enhance email protections** where possible
- 6 Ensure fully updated anti-virus system in place
- 7 Communicate tips on **securing home Wi-Fi**
- 8 **Prepare staff** on reporting incidents/issues
- 9 **Avoid sharing confidential information over video**
- 10 **Lock screen** when unattended
- 11 Conduct **due diligence** on new **suppliers** e.g. **video conferencing** solutions
- 12 **Identify targeted individuals** within your organisation e.g. Finance, privileged users and senior management



## Data Privacy Challenges of Returning to the Office

Just as we have got to grips with the data privacy and security challenges of working remotely, we will soon be faced with a new set, with the return of staff to offices. This [includes](#);

- Ensuring a lawful basis for the collection of medical data or travel history from employees
- Protecting the confidentiality of employees e.g. where an employee is sick
- Collecting the minimum data, asking whether it is relevant and proportionate
- Updating the Record of Processing Activities (RoPA) to reflect new processing
- Assigning appropriate retention period for new information collected

## European Data Protection Board Set to Endorse Data Protection Certification

- [EuroPrivacy](#) is the first organisation to submit a GDPR certification to the European Data Protection Board for approval. Approval is expected to be granted in June or July at which point EuroPrivacy will be the only GDPR certification scheme available under articles 42 and 43 of the GDPR.
- The certification process will include documentation review, technical tests and interviews.
- The outcome will be the identification and reduction of legal, financial and reputational risks.
- Certification will provide organisations with a competitive edge in a market where privacy is becoming a top priority in the due diligence of new vendors.
- Mazars are Europrivacy's first consulting partner within Europe and our trained GDPR experts will be equipped to assess your compliance against GDPR, through the Europrivacy Certification Scheme
- **We are looking to work with a group of pilot clients to launch the certification. If you are interested in discussing this, please get in touch with Liam.**



## DPC Step Towards Twitter Fine

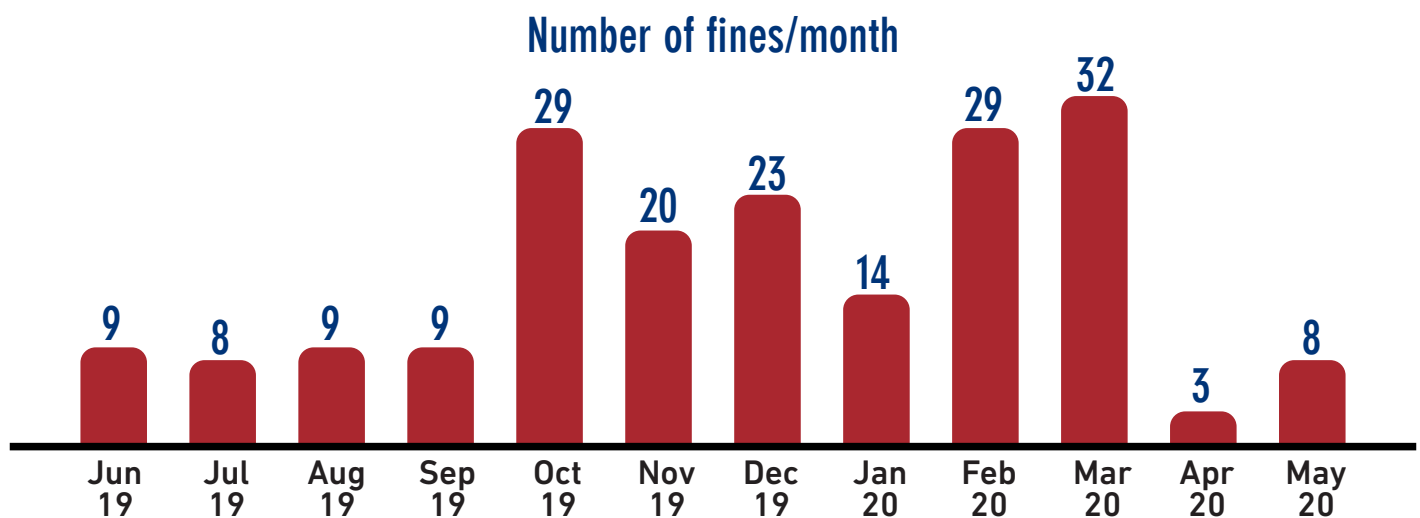
- The [DPC](#) is thought to deliver a landmark GDPR decision which is expected to set a precedent for global tech companies.
- DPC is to rule on Twitter data breaches back in 2018 and early 2019 which relate to the untimely reporting of breaches.

## Former Taoisigh and Ex-Minister Salaries

- The Information Commissioner's Office Ireland (ICO) ruled in May that it will [no longer be possible](#) to find out what ex-government ministers are paid as part of their pensions each year—"public interest did not outweigh their right to privacy."
- The ICO conducts independent reviews of decisions by public bodies on Freedom of Information requests.

## Ireland's First GDPR Fine

- In the run up to the 2 year GDPR anniversary, the DPC [issued](#) its long-awaited first fine under the GDPR for €75,000. The fine was given to Tusla, for 3 data breaches reported to the DPC. A consequence of the disclosure of children's personal data to unauthorised parties in circumstances which have attracted considerable media attention and public criticism.
- For some, this fine will be the much-needed wake-up call for non-compliant organisations who have failed to adequately comply with the GDPR. While we have closely watched other European supervisory authorities hand out fines covering the breadth of GDPR non-compliance, the threat of hefty fines is now on our doorstep. Looking at the statistics for the last 12 months, it is clear there has been a substantial increase of fines\* across the EU.



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