

Privacy Notice – North West Regional College

Introduction

North West Regional College values relationships with all students, staff and stakeholders and this notice explains how the College collects, processes and manages personal data. The College will process all personal data in compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 for the purpose of providing you with a service you have requested and to meet our statutory obligations. We will never ask for information that is unnecessary to deliver this service.

North West Regional College is a Data Controller registered with the Information Commissioner Office (ICO) and is responsible under data protection legislation for the personal data that you submit to us.

The Data Protection Officer for the College is **Lois McKean** (DPO@nwrc.ac.uk).

The College's registration reference number with ICO is **Z4821243**.

Lawful Basis for Processing

Personal Data

As a FE College our main lawful bases for processing your personal data are as follows:

Article 6.1 (a)

- the data subject has given **consent** to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes (*e.g. consent to contact next of kin, direct marketing, opting in or out of a programme*).

Article 6.1(b)

- processing is necessary for the performance of a **contract** to which the data subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract (*e.g. staff employment contracts, contracts for a third party service, student relationship with the College*).

Article 6.1(c)

- processing is necessary for **compliance with a legal obligation** to which the controller is subject (*e.g. The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007, Disability Discrimination Act 1995, SENDO, Employment law*).

Article 6.1 (d)

- processing is necessary in order to protect the **vital interests** of the data subject or of another natural person (e.g. *we may need to disclose information to health providers or professionals*).

Article 6.1(e)

- processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the **public interest** or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. On behalf of the Department for the Economy (DfE), our role is to provide you with quality education [e.g. *The Further Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997*].

Article 6.1 (f)

- processing is necessary for the purposes of the **legitimate interests** pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child (e.g. *Nursery provider, photographs*).

On occasions we may be required to process your personal data for other reasons however we will only do so where a Lawful Basis applies.

Special Category Data

We are also required to collect, process and maintain special category data such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership or the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person and data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation.

When the College is required to process Special Category Data, we will only do so where a lawful basis exists for processing this information under Article 6 and Article 9 of UK GDPR or, where appropriate, Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act (2018):

Article 9.2(b)

- processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and social security and social protection law [e.g. *requirements by the Department for Economy to ensure meaningful equal opportunity monitoring and reporting, Learning Support details are required for compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)*].

Information on Criminal Convictions

Where appropriate, the College is required to collect information about criminal convictions as part of student admission and staff recruitment processes or we may be notified of such information directly by you in the course of you working for us. As per the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007, Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, there is a legitimacy in our field of work to ask for this. We will use the information to make decisions about your engagement or continued employment / enrolment in line with the Policy on Safeguarding, Care and Welfare Policy and Procedures.

The College lawful basis for processing this information is Schedule 1(18) of the Data Protection Act (2018), 'Safeguarding of Children and of Individuals at Risk'.

Categories of Personal Data

Personal data and special category data captured may include:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Contact details
- IP Address
- Next of Kin
- Religious Belief
- Dependents
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Photographic image for student/staff ID cards
- Marital Status
- Employment Status
- Political Opinion
- Residency
- Educational Background i.e. grades
- Disabilities, learning difficulties, long term medical conditions
- Caring Responsibilities
- Criminal Convictions
- Barriers to Education
- Career Aspirations

Information may be obtained directly from the individual, or in some cases from a third party organisation involved in the services provided by the College that has obtained the information in the first instance.

All employees, students and visitors should have a reasonable expectation of being captured on CCTV on a daily basis.

While the use of CCTV is primarily for the following purposes, the College will regulate its use within the provisions of data protection legislation so as not to become intrusive:

- Deterring, prevention and detection of a crime including misuse/abuse of College equipment.
- Identification, apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- Security of campus buildings and ground.
- Safeguarding/Health and Safety

The College will only collect and process the necessary information required for these purposes. This information may be shared with various College sections for essential operational reasons. In exceptional circumstances, the images may be viewed for investigatory purposes.

The College also records identifiable personal data for all external visitors in line with Safeguarding and Health and Safety guidelines. This data is used to support a secure learning environment, protect staff and students and identify who is on campus at any given time in case of an emergency.

The College will only collect and process the necessary information required for these purposes, and without it the College may not be able to fulfil its obligations. Information may be passed between various sections of the College for operational reasons and where a lawful basis exists to process as is necessary and proportionate for intended purposes only.

Purpose of Processing

The College holds the personal data and special category data of its students and staff in order to implement and manage all services and processes.

With regard to student data: this includes; student recruitment, admission, registration, teaching and learning (including attendance, progress and achievement), examination, assessment, graduation, collection and payment of monies, financial transactions and other services such as student support, careers, library services, research and surveys for feedback on individual experiences of study and to enhance learning experiences.

With regard to staff data: this includes: recruitment, staff development, payroll, contractual requirements, research and surveys for quality and improvement and staff related policies. The College may be required to contact staff directly by web text with pertinent information when this is considered necessary.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The College may use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to support application processing, internal operations and the delivery and enhancement of our services to staff, students and user experience.

Where the use of AI technology within the College processes personal data, this is governed by the requirements of data protection legislation and the data protection principles in accordance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Where appropriate, the College will implement the necessary safeguards and prioritises AI solutions that operate within our existing validated data boundaries (such as Microsoft 365) to ensure consistent application of our data protection standards. The College also conducts Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) to assess any risk associated with new processing activities and implements necessary safeguards.

The College does not use personal data to train AI models. Outputs generated by AI involving personal data are subject to human review before any decisions affecting individuals are made to ensure fairness, accuracy, transparency and compliance with Data Protection principles.

The College will not use automated decision making, including AI, to make decisions that will have significant impacts on individuals without appropriate safeguards.

Departmental Privacy Notices

We have a number of departmental Privacy Notices which provide a clear and transparent understanding of what we do with your data within our different functional areas. Departmental Privacy Notices are available on our College website under: [Privacy and Data Protection | North West Regional College \(nwrc.ac.uk\)](https://www.nwrc.ac.uk/privacy-and-data-protection)

How do we Collect Personal Data?

We collect personal information about students and employees through individual initial application / enrolment stages, internal departmental processes, manual forms, telephone calls and on-line systems, third parties e.g. *School Links*.

Who will have access to my information, or who will you share it with?

We will share personal information with third parties where required to do so by law, where it is necessary to administer the working relationship with you or where there is a third party legitimate interest in doing so.

Information may be passed between various sections of the College for operational reasons and may also be disclosed to external agencies to which we have obligations, for example Government Agencies and associated Statutory Bodies (e.g. Department for the Economy, HMRC), FE Shared Services – Data Collection, Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) ([Link to HESA Privacy Notice](#)), Public Health Agency ([Link to PHA Privacy Notice](#)), Funding Bodies, Government Survey & Research Organisations, UCAS, Student Loans Company, Education Authority, Learner Records Service (LRS) ([Link to Learner Records Service Privacy Notice](#)), University of Ulster for provision of collaborative courses, Crime Prevention Agencies, Employers who pay fees and/or allow you time off work to attend your course, Placement Providers, Examination Awarding Bodies, Social Welfare Organisations, Trade Unions, Careers Service, Library Management System (LMS), UKBA, Debt Recovery Agencies and potentially other such organisations for defined purposes. We may also disclose information to examining and assessment bodies, legal representatives.

We require third party service providers to respect the security of your data and to treat it in accordance with the law.

Student and Leavers Surveys (HESA)

The College will hold your contact details after you graduate in order for you to be contacted to complete the Graduate Outcomes survey.

Your contact details will be passed to the Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited (HESA) and organisations contracted to undertake the Graduate Outcomes survey. The survey contractors will only use your contact details for the survey and will delete them when the survey is closed. HESA may hold your contact details for further Graduate Outcomes surveys where these are in the public interest.

Responses to the Graduate Outcomes survey will be used to create statistics to meet the public interest in the outcomes of higher education. Your responses will also be made available to the College who may choose to add additional questions to the survey for the College's own use. Information from third parties (such as your parent or your provider, if you are in further study) might be used to complete sections of the surveys if you cannot be contacted.

Further privacy and data protection information will be provided if you are contacted for any of these surveys. You might also be contacted as part of an audit to check that the survey has been undertaken properly.

Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England at: 95 Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 1HZ. Registered No. 02766993. Registered Charity No. 1039709. Certified to ISO 27001.

The members are Universities UK and Guild HE. For more information about the Graduate Outcomes survey visit the dedicated website www.graduateoutcomes.ac.uk.

For more information about HESA's data protection compliance, including contact details and your rights, please see HESA's Privacy Information ([Link to HESA Privacy Notice](#)).

Controller

Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited (HESA) will be the Controller of personal data processed for the Graduate Outcomes survey.

Legal basis for processing your information to conduct national surveys

Processing of your information to conduct Graduate Outcomes survey is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Controller (See GDPR Article 6(1)(e)) and for statistical and research purposes (See GDPR Article 89).

Transfers to Countries Outside the UK

Transfer of personal data outside the United Kingdom, to third countries or international organisations is restricted under UK GDPR regulations. Overseas sharing will be processed in accordance with Chapter V of UK GDPR ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#)).

Retention Period

We will only retain personal data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purpose for which it was collected and for the purpose of satisfying any legal, accounting or reporting requirements. The College will retain records in line with the FE Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule – available at: [College Policies | North West Regional College \(nwrc.ac.uk\)](#)

Data Subjects Rights

You have the right:

- To be informed about what we do with your information at point of data collection.
- To access your personal data that we process.
- To rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you.
- To be forgotten, that is to have your details removed from systems we use to process your personal data.
- To restrict the processing of your personal data.
- To obtain a copy of your personal data in a commonly used electronic form.
- To object to certain processing of your personal data by us.
- To request that we stop sending you direct marketing communications.
- To withdraw consent – only where processing is based on consent.

For additional information on exercising your rights, please contact our Data Protection Officer (details below) or see our Data Protection Policy, click here to access: [Data Protection Policy](#).

The Right to Lodge a Complaint

If you are not happy with how your information is being processed by the College, contact the DPO:

Lois McKean
Data Protection and Information Compliance Officer
North West Regional College
Derry~Londonderry
BT48 7AL

Tel: 02871 276154

Email: DPO@nwrc.ac.uk

If you are dissatisfied with the College response, you have a right to complain to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

The ICO contact details are:

Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland
3rd Floor
14 Cromac Place,
Belfast
BT7 2JB

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Your duty to inform us of changes

It is important that the personal information we hold about you is accurate and current. Please keep us informed if your personal information changes during your working relationship with us.

Failure to provide personal information

If you fail to provide certain information when requested, we will not be able to fulfil our legal obligations or deliver the service you have requested.

Changes to this Privacy Notice

We reserve the right to update this privacy notice where there is a significant or unforeseen change to our processing activity and our current Privacy Notices can be accessed on our website.