

PROVIDER NAME: CCT College Dublin (CCT)			
POLICY AREA: Standard 10: Information Management			
Policy and Procedure Title:	<i>CCTP1002: Data Protection Policy</i>	Policy Number: CCTP1002	Version: 1.4
<p>CCT College Dublin The purpose of this document is to provide a concise policy statement regarding the Data Protection obligations of CCT College Dublin. This includes obligations in dealing with personal data, in order to ensure that the organisation complies with the requirements of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). CCT College Dublin is committed to complying with the Data Protection principles set out in the GDPR. This Policy applies to all Personal Data collected, processed and stored by CCT College Dublin in relation to its staff, students, and service providers. CCT College Dublin makes no distinction between the rights of Data Subjects who are employees, and those who are not. All are treated equally under this Policy.</p> <p>The policy covers both personal and special categories of personal data (sensitive data) processed in relation to data subjects by CCT College Dublin. The policy applies equally to personal data held in manual and automated form. All Personal and Special Categories of Personal Data will be treated with equal care by CCT College Dublin. Both categories will be equally referred-to as Personal Data in this policy, unless specifically stated otherwise. This policy should be read in conjunction with the associated Subject Access Request procedure, the Records Retention and Destruction Policy and procedure, the CCTV Policy and Procedure, the Privacy Statement of CCT College Dublin, and the Data Breach Notification policy and procedure.</p> <p>CCT College Dublin as a Data Controller In the course of its daily organisational activities, CCT College Dublin acquires, processes and stores personal data in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employees ● Former employees ● Students ● Applicants (to programmes and employment vacancies) ● Graduates ● Third party service providers engaged by the College <p>In accordance with the GDPR, this data must be acquired and managed fairly. Not all staff members will be expected to be experts in Data Protection legislation. However, CCT College Dublin is committed to ensuring that its staff have sufficient awareness of the GDPR in order to be able to anticipate and identify a Data Protection issue, should one arise. In such circumstances, staff must ensure that the Data Protection Contact is informed, without delay, in order that appropriate corrective action is taken.</p> <p>As a higher education provider, there is regular and active exchange of personal data between CCT College Dublin and its Data Subjects. In addition, CCT College Dublin may exchange personal data with Data Processors and or Joint Data Controllers on the Data Subjects’ behalf. This policy provides the guidelines for this exchange of information, as well as the procedure to follow in the event that a CCT College Dublin staff member is unsure whether such data can be disclosed. In general terms, the staff member should consult with the Dean of Academic Affairs, as the Data Protection Contact, to seek clarification.</p>			

Data Protection Contact

All personal data enquiries, or requests to exercise your rights as a data subject, can be directed to QA office, CCT College Dublin, 30 – 34 Westmoreland St., Dublin 2, or by email to QA@cct.ie

If you are dissatisfied with the information provided or believe your request to exercise your rights has not been addressed, you can make a complaint to the supervisory authority. As CCT College Dublin operates primarily in Ireland, the supervisory authority is the Data Protection Commissioner who can be contacted through the following means:

By post: Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, Canal House, Station Road, Portarlington, Co. Laois, R32 AP23, Ireland.

By phone +353 (0761) 104800, or

By email: email info@dataprotection.ie

Data Subjects' Rights

Under GDPR data subjects have increased rights and data controllers are required to notify data subjects of their rights.

Individuals have the right to:

- be informed about the collection and use of their personal data. This is a key transparency requirement under the GDPR.
- Withdraw consent, where consent is the legal basis for data processing
- Access their personal data (a data subject access request).
- Have inaccurate personal data rectified or completed if incomplete.
- Have personal data erased (the right to be forgotten) in certain circumstances
- Request the restriction or suppression of their personal data, in certain circumstances
- Data portability, allowing individuals to reuse their data across different services, where feasible
- Object to personal data processing, in certain circumstances
- Not be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing or profiling
- Make a complain if there is a belief that data rights have been violated.

To exercise any of these rights, please use the data protection contact details provided in this Policy. Where we require additional information from you to verify your identity and the legitimacy of the request or to establish the specific reasons for the request to enable CCT College Dublin to respond appropriately we will do so in a timely manner. There is normally no fee applied in respect of any rights requests.

Third-Party processors

In the course of its role as Data Controller, CCT College Dublin may engage a number of Data Processors to process Personal Data on its behalf. In each case, a formal, written contract is in place with the Processor, outlining their obligations in relation to the Personal Data, the specific purpose or purposes for which they are engaged, and the understanding that they will process the data in compliance with the GDPR. The CCT Privacy Statement details the third-party processors with whom CCT shares data. CCT College Dublin recognises that it remains the Data Controller and thus responsible for how the data is used.

Joint Data Controllers

In certain circumstances, in its role as Data Controller, CCT College Dublin may be the joint controller for personal data of data subjects. In each case, each party recognises the full extent of the Data Controller obligations in relation to the Personal Data, the specific purpose or purposes for which it is collected, processed, retained and transmitted and the requirement to process the data in compliance with the GDPR. Irrespective of whether CCT College Dublin acts as sole data controller or as joint data controller, data subjects may exercise their rights under GDPR in respect of CCT College Dublin's data controller obligations. Any joint controller must extend the same rights to the data subjects. In such cases, neither Controller is responsible for the data processing by the joint controller.

Joint Data Controllers include:

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland
- Central Applications Office (CAO)
- Department of Justice (Immigration and Naturalisation Service)
- Department of Social Protection
- Office of the Revenue Commissioners

Data Protection Principles

The following key principles are enshrined in the GDPR and are fundamental to the CCT College Dublin Data Protection policy. In its capacity as Data Controller, CCT College Dublin ensures that all data shall be:

a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.

CCT College Dublin will meet this obligation in the following way:

- CCT College Dublin will ensure that collection of the data is justified under one of the lawful processing conditions – legal obligation, contractual necessity, etc.
- Where required and no alternative appropriate legal basis for processing is identified, the informed consent of the Data Subject will be sought before their data is processed. The data subject will be fully informed about the consent requested and the right to withdraw consent.
- Where CCT College Dublin intends to record activity on CCTV or video, this will be brought to the attention of data subjects, and an appropriate policy will be made publicly available.
- Processing of the personal data will be carried out only as part of CCT College Dublin's lawful activities, and CCT College Dublin will safeguard the rights and freedoms of the Data Subject.
- The Data Subject's data will not be disclosed to a third party other than to a party contracted to CCT College Dublin and operating on its behalf, or in cases where there is a legal obligation or it is in the vital interests of the data subject (or other parties), or in the national interest.

b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes.

CCT College Dublin will fulfil its obligation in this regard by:

- Only obtaining data for purposes which are specific, lawful and clearly stated.
- Affording the Data Subject the right to question the purpose(s) for which CCT College Dublin holds their data,

- Ensuring CCT College Dublin can clearly state the purpose or purposes for data processing.

c) *adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.*

CCT College Dublin will fulfil its obligation in this regard by ensuring use of the data by CCT College Dublin will be compatible with the purposes for which the data was acquired.

d) *accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay.*

CCT College Dublin will fulfil its obligations in this regard by

- ensuring that appropriate mechanisms (audits, administrative and IT validation processes) are in place to conduct regular assessments of data accuracy.
- Conducting periodic reviews and audits to ensure that relevant data is kept accurate and up-to-date.
- Providing means for data subjects to verify the accuracy, currency and completeness of their personal data and opportunity for correction or completion to be implemented, as required.

e) *kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals;*

CCT College Dublin will fulfil its obligations in this regard by:

- Developing, publishing and implementing a records retention schedule which clearly outlines the retention periods for personal data based upon the purpose for which the data was collected and the legal basis upon which retention is determined.
- Implementing regular audits to ensure the full and proper adherence to the records retention policy.
- Training staff in their responsibilities and obligations regarding retention of personal data.
- Implementing appropriate measures for the secure destruction, deletion or archiving of personal data at the end of the retention period.

f) *processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.*

CCT College Dublin will fulfil its obligations in this regard by:

- employing appropriate standards of security to protect the personal data under its care.
- Implementing security measures to protect against unauthorised access to, or alteration, destruction or disclosure of any personal data held by CCT College Dublin in its capacity as Data Controller.
- Limiting access to and management of staff and student / graduate records to those staff members who have appropriate authorisation and password access.
- Providing appropriate training for staff to know their obligations and responsibilities in respect of personal data.
- Implementing appropriate measures to determine security of data transfers to other countries and only transferring outside of the EU where the transfer is:

- made with the individual's informed consent.

- necessary for the performance of a contract between the individual and the organisation or for pre-contractual steps taken at the individual's request.
- necessary for the performance of a contract made in the interests of the individual between the controller and another person.
- necessary for important reasons of public interest.
- necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.
- necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or other persons, where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent; or
- made from a register which under Irish or EU law is intended to provide information to the public (and which is open to consultation by either the public in general or those able to show a legitimate interest in inspecting the register).

In addition, the College commits to facilitating access to personal data of a data subject, within the legal specified timeframe, where a valid subject access request is received.

Data Subject Access Requests

As part of the day-to-day operation of the organisation, CCT College Dublin's staff engage in active and regular exchanges of information with Data Subjects. Where a request is submitted by a Data Subject in relation to the data held by CCT College Dublin, such a request gives rise to access rights in favour of the Data Subject. There are specific timelines within which CCT College Dublin must respond to the Data Subject, depending on the nature and extent of the request. These are outlined in the Data Access Request policy and procedure.

CCT College Dublin's staff will ensure that, where received, such requests are forwarded to the Data Protection Contact in a timely manner, and they are processed as quickly and efficiently as possible, but within not more than one month (30 days) from receipt of the request, except in those circumstances where an extension of the response time is legitimate. Subject access requests will not normally be subject to a fee.

Implementation

As a Data Controller, CCT College Dublin ensures that any entity which processes Personal Data on its behalf (a Data Processor) does so in a manner compliant with the Data Protection legislation.

Accounting for the risk undertaken, appropriate due diligence will apply, and a Data Processing Agreement will be in place with Third Party Processors.

Failure of a Data Processor to manage CCT College Dublin’s data in a compliant manner will be viewed as a breach of contract and may be pursued through the courts.

Failure of CCT College Dublin’s staff to process Personal Data in compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary proceedings.

Definitions

For the avoidance of doubt, and for consistency in terminology, the following definitions will apply within this Policy.

Personal Data	<p>Any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified in particular by reference to an identifier. This definition provides for a wide range of personal identifiers to constitute personal data, including name, identification number, location data or online identifier, reflecting changes in technology and the way organisations collect information about people.</p> <p>The GDPR applies to both automated personal data and to manual filing systems where personal data are accessible according to specific criteria. This could include chronologically ordered sets of manual records containing personal data.</p> <p>Personal data that has been pseudonymised – e.g. key-coded – can fall within the scope of the GDPR depending on how difficult it is to attribute the pseudonym to a particular individual.</p>
Special Categories of Personal Data	<p>A particular category of Personal data, relating to: Racial or Ethnic Origin, Political Opinions, Religious, Ideological or Philosophical beliefs, Trade Union membership, Information relating to mental or physical health, information in relation to one’s Sexual Orientation.</p> <p>The special categories specifically include genetic data, and biometric data where processed to uniquely identify an individual.</p> <p>Personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences are not included, but similar extra safeguards apply to its processing.</p>
Data Controller	<p>means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data; where the purposes and means of such processing are determined by Union or Member State law, the controller or the specific criteria for its nomination may be provided for by Union or Member State law;</p>
Data Subject	<p>A living individual who is the subject of the Personal Data, i.e. to whom the data relates either directly or indirectly.</p>
Data Processor	<p>A natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which processes personal data on behalf of the controller;</p>

Data Protection Contact	A person appointed by CCT College Dublin to monitor compliance with the appropriate Data Protection legislation, to deal with Subject Access Requests, and to respond to Data Protection queries from staff members, students, and all data subjects or potential data subjects	
Relevant Filing System	Any set of information in relation to living individuals which is not processed by means of equipment operating automatically (computers), and that is structured, either by reference to individuals, or by reference to criteria relating to individuals, in such a manner that specific information relating to an individual is readily retrievable.	
Personal Data Breach	a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed;	
Supervisory Authority	an independent public authority which is established by a Member State pursuant to Article 51; In Ireland, the supervisory authority is the Data Protection Commissioner.	
Monitoring		
Monitor (Job Title)	Frequency	Monitoring Method(s)
Dean of Academic Affairs	Annually	Review of ongoing accuracy and legality of the policy Review of data protection enquiries, breaches, complaints, requests, withdrawals of consent Integration with associated policies – subject access request policy, CCTV policy, website / cookies policy, records retention policy, privacy statement etc.

POLICY CONTROL SHEET

Policy Title	Data Protection Policy
Responsible Officer(s)	Dean of Academic Affairs, College President
Issuance Date	June 2025
Effective Date	June 2025
Last Review Date	July 2020
Supersedes	Version 1.2
Next Review Date	August 2026
Designated Reviewer	Dean of Academic Affairs
Scope	All staff and stakeholders

Revision History

Revision	Approval Date	Revision Description	Originator	Approved By
New Policy	May 2018	New Policy for GDPR compliance	Senior Management Team	Academic Council
Version 1.1	September 2019	Removal of named third party processors and reference to Privacy Statement for confirmation of these.	SMT	Academic Council
Version 1.2	July 2020	Revision to reflect Return to Work protocols	College President	Executive Leadership Team
Version 1.3	June 2025	Removed reference to previous employee Replaced named email address with QA email Minor presentation updates	Dean of Academic Affairs	Academic Council
Version 1.4	November 2025	Edited for accuracy and completeness following external review of policy	External Review of Policy organised by Board of Directors	Academic Council

References upon which the Policy section is based

CCT Policy area	Information Management
Statutory & System Wide Basis	The Irish Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act, 2012; QQI Core Statutory Guidelines for Quality Assurance EU GDPR
Related CCT Policies / Forms	CCTP1001 – Privacy Statement CCTP1003 – Data Access Request Policy CCTP1004 – CCTV Policy CCTP1005 – Information Management Policy CCT Records Retention Schedule