

RIGHT TO RESTRICT PROCESSING

THE RIGHT TO RESTRICT PROCESSING is one of 8 rights in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR comes into force in the UK on the 25th May 2018. Along with the new Data Protection Bill, the GDPR is the biggest shake up of data protection law in the UK since 1998.

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What is the right to restrict processing?

The right to restrict processing is the right to ask an organisation to only store your data. Not to use or share it.

This will usually be done if you have used your right to object, your right to erasure or your right to rectification. To learn more about these rights see our [relevant Factsheets](#).

The right to restrict processing stops the use or sharing of your data unless:

- You have given your consent.
- Use or sharing of data is necessary for a legal reason.
- Use or sharing of data is necessary in the public interest.

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How do I use my right to restrict processing?

You can use your right to restrict processing:

- If the use of your data is unlawful but you don't want your data to be deleted.
- If you have used your right to rectification and have asked the organisation to stop processing whilst the errors or missing information is addressed.
- When there is no further need for your data to be used by the organisation, but you need it to assist with a legal issue, you can ask the controller to continue to store the data only.

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What will happen to my data?

If your data is held in an automated system it will either be:

- Separated out and held in a different system or
- Blocked and made unavailable for any further use.

If your data has been shared with others, the organisation you first gave your data to must contact everyone they have subsequently shared your data with and instruct them to stop processing it.

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Why does it matter?

The right to restrict processing is important because it gives reassurance that your data won't be used whilst any concerns with your data are being addressed.

If you have used your right to object, right to erasure or your right to rectification, you should make sure you use your right to restrict processing.

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Don't forget

- The right to restriction is used to stop an organisation processing, using or sharing your data.
- An organisation will continue to store your data but it must be stored separately or have a block placed on it.
- Data cannot be restricted if it is needed for a legal reason or in the public interest.