



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

BUSINESS IMPACT TARGET: SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Non-qualifying Regulatory Provisions
(NQRP) summary reporting template

Regulator: Information Commissioner's Office

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 17 December 2020 to 16 December 2021

Exclusion Category	Summary of activity
Pro-competition	<p>In May 2021 the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and the Competition and Markets Authority published their blueprint for cooperation in digital markets, detailing how they would work together to overcome perceived tensions between their objectives, with joint work to consider market developments such as the Google Privacy Sandbox.</p> <p>The ICO developed a Small and Medium sized Enterprise (SME) web hub to make it easier for SMEs to act upon data protection advice. This complements existing SME helpline, live chat and email services. As of the end of September the ICO had responded to more than 390,000 organisations; most of which were SMEs.</p> <p>It has also proactively provided businesses with information to ensure data protection is not an impediment to keeping business moving in a data driven world. And it approved its first Certification Schemes in areas of age appropriate design, age assurance, and asset disposal. The schemes certify that products, services and processes businesses provide are compliant with data protection legislation. These measures are positive for business.</p>
Fines and Penalties	<p>Fines issued to non-public sector organisations for not registering with the ICO totalled £98,800. Fines for other data protection breaches totalled £25,000.</p> <p>Fines for Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulation breaches were just over £2.1m.</p>
Casework	<p>The ICO handles complaints from individuals under the GDPR and the DPA 2018. In the reporting period the ICO received over 37,000 complaints from the public about data protection issues of which over a third relate to businesses; with over 9,500 personal data breaches reported.</p>
Education, communications and promotion	<p>Following EU exit the ICO updated all its guidance to reflect that the UK has left the EU, and published guidance covering the issues that exit raised.</p> <p>Following the opening of applications to the ICO regulatory sandbox, designed to support organisations using personal data to develop innovative products, it published outcomes reports highlighting lessons learned and issues for the future. The ICO also published its Data Sharing Code - providing practical advice to businesses on how to share data responsibly; supporting digital innovation across businesses.</p>

Exclusion Category	Summary of activity
Activity related to policy development	<p>The ICO launched consultations on its draft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalism code of practice. • Regulatory Action Policy • New employer hub of guidance products and • International data transfer agreement <p>In addition the Children's' Code came into force in September 2021. It ensures that online services likely to be accessed by children respect a child's rights and freedoms when using their personal data. A Commissioner's Opinion on Age Assurance, giving a detailed explanation of how the law applies, has also been published. These measures are positive for business.</p>