



GDPR and Privacy Policy

Your privacy is very important to me and you can be confident that your personal information will be kept safe and secure and will only be used for the purpose it was given to me. I adhere to current data protection legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulation (EU/2016/679) (the GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003. This privacy notice tells you what I will do with your personal information from initial point of contact through to after your therapy has ended, including:

- Why I am able to process your information and what purpose I am processing it for
- Whether you have to provide it to me
- How long I store it for
- Whether there are other recipients of your personal information
- Whether I intend to transfer it to another country,
- Whether I do automated decision-making or profiling, and
- Your data protection rights.

I am happy to chat through any questions you might have about my data protection policy and you can contact me via email. 'Data controller' is the term used to describe the person/ organisation that collects and stores and has responsibility for people's personal data. In this instance, the data controller is me. I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ZB925023). My email address is nic@thelistening-ear.co.uk

My lawful basis for holding and using your personal information

The GDPR states that I must have a lawful basis for processing your personal data. There are different lawful bases depending on the stage at which I am processing your data. I have explained these below: If you have had therapy with me and it has now ended, I will use legitimate interest as my lawful basis for holding and using your personal information. If you are currently having therapy or if you are in contact with me to consider therapy, I will process your personal data where it is necessary for the performance of our contract. The GDPR also makes sure that I look after any sensitive personal information that you may disclose to me appropriately. This type of information is called 'special category personal information'. The lawful basis for me processing any special categories of personal information is that it is for provision of health treatment (in this case counselling) and necessary for a contract with a health professional (in this case, a contract between me and you).

Initial contact.

When you contact me with an enquiry about my counselling services

I will collect information to help me satisfy your inquiry. This will include your email address and phone number. Alternatively, a parent/carer or trusted individual may give me your details when making an inquiry on your behalf. If you decide not to proceed I will ensure all your personal data is deleted within 24 hours. If you would like me to delete this information sooner, just let me know.

Whilst you are accessing counselling

Rest assured that everything you discuss with me is confidential. That confidentiality will only be broken:

- If required to by law
- In relation to my own supervision (anonymised)
- Where there is a risk of harm to self or others

I will always try to speak to you about this first, unless there are safeguarding issues that prevent this.

I will keep a record of your personal details to help the counselling services run smoothly. These details are kept securely on my laptop which is password protected. The information is not shared with any third party. I will keep written notes of each session, these are kept on my laptop which is password protected. For security reasons I do not retain text messages for more than 24 hours. If there is relevant information

contained in a text message I will delete the message and save the content in my documents which are kept on my laptop which is password protected. Likewise, any email correspondence will be deleted after 24 hours if it is not important. If necessary I will save emails if they are deemed as necessary to keep.

After counselling has ended

Once counselling has ended your records will be kept for 7 years from the end of our contact with each other and are then securely destroyed. If you want me to delete your information sooner than this, please let me know.

Your rights

I try to be as open as I can be in terms of giving people access to their personal information. You have a right to ask me to delete your personal information, to limit how I use your personal information, or to stop processing your personal information. You also have a right to ask for a copy of any information that I hold about you and to object to the use of your personal data in some circumstances. I ask that you request in writing your intent to access your data, allowing 14 working days to respond and include how you would like me to send it to you. You can read more about your rights at ico.org.uk/your-data-matters. If I do hold information about you I will:

- give you a description of it and where it came from;
- tell you why I am holding it, tell you how long I will store your data and how I made this decision;
- tell you who it could be disclosed to

You can also ask me at any time to correct any mistakes there may be in the personal information I hold about you. To make a request for any personal information I may hold about you, please put the request in writing addressing it to nic@thelistening-ear.co.uk. If you have any complaint about how I handle your personal data please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by writing or emailing to the contact details given above. I would welcome any suggestions for improving my data protection procedures. If you want to make a formal complaint about the way I have processed your personal information you can contact the ICO which is the statutory body that oversees data protection law in the UK. For more information go to ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint

Data security

I take the security of the data I hold about you very seriously and as such I take every effort to make sure it is kept secure. Any paper that is held will be locked in a secure cabinet and the key is not openly accessible. All digital information is kept secure on a password protected laptop.

Additional information for website owners and employers

When someone visits my website, I use a third party service, Go Daddy to collect standard internet log information and details of visitor behaviour patterns. I do this to find out things such as the number of visitors to the various parts of the site. This information is only processed in a way that does not identify anyone. I do not make, and do not allow Go Daddy to make, any attempt to find out the identities of those visiting my website. I use legitimate interests as my lawful basis for holding and using your personal information in this way when you visit my website. I use Go Daddy so that I can continually improve my service to you, You can read [Go Daddy Privacy Agreement](#). Like most websites Go Daddy uses cookies to help the site work more efficiently - find out about [Go Daddy use of cookies](#). To opt out of being tracked by Google Analytics across all websites, [visit this link](#).

No user-specific data is collected by me or any third party. If you fill in a form on my website, that data will be temporarily stored on the web host before being sent to me.