



# Welcome



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# WHEN DATA MEETS DISASTER

**“ALIGNING DATA PROTECTION AND RISK  
MANAGEMENT”**

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# **Rights of the Data Subject**

**Right to Access**

**Right to be Informed**

**Right to Prevent Processing**

**Right to Rectification**

**Rights Related to Automated Decision-Making**

**Right to Data Portability**

**Right to Object to Direct Marketing**

# **Personal Data: Sensitive Data:**

**name**

**TRN**

**address**

**date of birth**

**passport number**

**phone number**

**email address**

**racial /ethnic origin**  
**political opinions**  
**religious or**  
**philosophical beliefs**  
**sex life**

**trade union**  
**membership**

# Sensitive Data includes:

## Data concerning health (and wellness?)

RECORDS OF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• illnesses, disabilities, injuries, mental health disorders, disease risk , medical history, family medical history</li><li>• ALSO: appointments, consultations, and treatments and registration for health services</li></ul>
RECORDS FROM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• doctors, hospitals, labs and other healthcare providers</li></ul>
DATA ON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• alcohol consumption, diet, and exercise levels</li></ul>
INFO FROM Smart Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• heart rate, sleep patterns, activity levels, and calorie intake</li></ul>
REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labs :X-rays, MRI scans,</li></ul>
INFO ON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Causes of death</li></ul>
GROUP DATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Studies and statistics on public health, disease prevalence, and health outcomes</li></ul>



# **Sensitive Data includes:**

## **Biometric Data**

Facial images used for recognition

Fingerprints

Iris Scans

Retina Scans

Hand geometry

Gait analysis

Keystroke dynamics

Signature dynamics

Voice scans

# Registration Opens Dec. 1 each year





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# Office of the Information Commissioner

The DPA provides for the establishment of a Data Protection Commission to:

- oversee compliance with the Act
- **investigate complaints** related to data protection.





Data Protection as a  
Pillar of Risk  
Management  
in a Pre- and Post-  
Hurricane World

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# Executive Context

Data is both a strategic asset and a significant liability

Jamaica's Data Protection Act (2020) reframes data protection as enterprise risk

Climate-driven disasters amplify data protection failures

GDPR provides a mature, risk-based benchmark

# Why Data Protection Is Risk Management

Regulatory non-compliance creates financial and legal exposure

Data breaches damage trust and reputation

Operational disruption increases likelihood of failure

Accountability principles require proactive risk controls

# Legal Foundations

Jamaica Data Protection Act, 2020

Security safeguards and accountability obligations

Mandatory breach notification

GDPR alignment: risk-based, proportional safeguards

# Personal Data as a Risk Multiplier

High value to cybercriminals

Emotionally sensitive to individuals

Triggers regulatory scrutiny

Amplifies reputational harm during crises

# The Risk-Based Approach



Assess likelihood and severity of harm



Apply safeguards proportional to risk



Document decisions and controls



Demonstrate accountability at all times



# Pre-Hurricane World

Stable infrastructure and predictable operations

Centralized IT systems

Routine compliance activities

Hidden and underestimated vulnerabilities

# Pre-Hurricane Data Protection Risks

Incomplete data mapping

Inadequate backups and testing

Weak vendor oversight

BCPs that ignore data protection realities

# DPIAs and Disaster Preparedness

Foreseeable risks must be assessed

Hurricanes are predictable Caribbean risks

Emergency access and manual processing must be planned

Best practice even where not explicitly mandated

# Business Continuity and Data Protection

BCPs often focus only on system restoration

Data protection obligations continue during crises

Lawful processing and access controls still apply

Misalignment creates major risk exposure

# Post-Hurricane Reality

Power and connectivity disruptions

Manual and improvised processes

Staff displacement and stress

Heavy reliance on third parties



# Elevated Post-Hurricane Data Protection Risks

Loss or theft of physical records

Use of personal devices and insecure channels

Unlogged emergency access

Increased fraud and phishing attacks

# Data Breaches in a Disaster Context

Emergency conditions do not suspend legal duties

Breach notification remains mandatory

Preparedness reduces regulatory penalties

Documentation is critical

# Trust and Reputation Risk

Customers and citizens are vulnerable post-disaster

Data failures feel exploitative

Reputational harm may exceed fines

Transparency preserves trust

# Strategic Lessons from GDPR

Accountability is continuous

Risk multiplies in emergencies

Preparedness mitigates penalties

Resilience depends on data governance maturity

# Key Recommendations: Pre-Hurricane

- Embed data protection into enterprise risk management
- Conduct disaster-focused data mapping
- Encrypt and geographically diversify backups
- Update BCPs with data protection scenarios





## Key Recommendations: Pre-Hurricane (Continued)

### Train

- Train staff on crisis data handling

### Clarify

- Clarify emergency access procedures

### Assess

- Assess vendor disaster resilience

### Document

- Document decision-making processes

# Key Recommendations: Post-Hurricane

01

Activate breach  
and incident  
response teams

02

Apply  
proportional  
safeguards

03

Assess and  
notify breaches  
promptly

04

Communicate  
transparently  
with  
stakeholders

# Post-Incident Review and Improvement



CONDUCT LESSONS-  
LEARNED  
ASSESSMENTS



UPDATE POLICIES  
AND CONTROLS



STRENGTHEN  
RESILIENCE GAPS



PREPARE FOR THE  
NEXT EVENT

# Final Consultant Insight

Data protection is not a compliance cost

It is a resilience and trust investment

Alignment with risk management ensures continuity

Prepared organizations emerge stronger



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# This Act is currently in force.

Data Controllers are encouraged to open an account with the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) at <https://oic.gov.jm/>



# Compliance

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Penalties for failure to comply are both Civil and Criminal.

They include:

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Failure to comply with the requirements under the Act can result in a company being liable to **fine not exceeding ten million dollars or 4% of its annual gross worldwide income.**

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Failure to comply with the requirements under the **Act can result in imprisonment for a period of up to 10 years.**

Keep  
your  
profits!







**Thank You!**

# Thank You



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