

# PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

## SITUATION

As a result of anticipated changes to data protection legislation and the issue of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the demand for Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) is expected to rise sharply. Although currently not mandated within the Data Protection Act, they will be a requirement of GDPR in certain circumstances. So organisations need to start thinking about conducting them now.

## WHAT IS A PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PIA)?

A PIA is a tool that can help organisations identify the most effective way to comply with their data protection obligations whilst also meeting an individuals' expectations of privacy. This is achieved by asking a series of questions about a project or a system where personal information is involved.



## WHEN MIGHT YOU NEED TO CARRY OUT A PIA?

There are several reasons why you may need to conduct a PIA such as:

- A new IT system for storing and accessing personal data
- A data sharing initiative where two or more organisations seek to pool or link sets of personal data
- A proposal to identify people in a particular group or demographic and initiate a course of action
- Using existing data for a new and unexpected or more intrusive purpose
- A new surveillance system (especially one that monitors members of the public) or the application of new technology to an existing system (e.g. adding Automatic Number Plate Recognition capabilities to existing CCTV)
- A new database which consolidates information held by separate parts of an organisation
- Legislation, policy or strategies that will impact on privacy through the collection of use of information, or through surveillance or other monitoring
- A review of current and/or legacy holdings to ensure that sufficient protection is being afforded to personal data

\*Please note: Advent IM follows the guidance specified by the ICO relating to the conducting of PIAs

