



Cayman Data Protection Law (DPL) Q&A for Citco Fund Services Clients

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CITCO

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Overview

On 27 March 2017, the Data Protection Law, 2017 (<http://www.gov.ky/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/12428349.PDF>) was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands. Cayman has delayed the introduction of this law until September 2019. (It was originally scheduled to be enforceable since January 2019.)

The Cayman data protection law makes a distinction between data controllers and processors in the same way the European General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) does (and the EU’s 1995 Data Protection Directive before it). This is because the Cayman DPL is influenced by the 1995 Directive. The definitions of a data “controller” and a data “processor” are effectively the same as the definitions contained in the GDPR. Therefore, references to data controller and data processor roles are relevant irrespective of whether the GDPR or the Cayman DPL (once enforceable) applies to a particular Citco Cayman client entity relationship.

All Cayman funds should take steps to ensure they understand their obligations under the new law. We have prepared this Q&A document to assist you in that regard. In addition, we have prepared a comparison chart between the Cayman DPL and the GDPR. We have also prepared a table showing more specifically how Citco has prepared for the Cayman DPL.

Cayman DPL - Q&A

Questions		Response / Comments
1.	Who does the DPL apply to?	<p>The DPL applies to both the “data controller” and “data processor”.</p> <p>The DPL applies to processing of personal data carried out by organizations established within the Cayman Islands, as well as to organizations established outside the Cayman Islands that process personal data within the Cayman Islands.</p>
2.	What is personal data or sensitive data?	<p>The DPL applies to ‘personal data’ meaning any information relating to a living individual who can be directly or indirectly identified. The DPL applies to personal data in any format, including in automated and manual (paper) filing systems.</p> <p>The DPL refers to ‘sensitive personal’ data, to which additional protections apply. Sensitive personal data includes genetic and health data, as well as information on racial or ethnic origins, political opinions, religious or similar beliefs, sex life, the commission or alleged commission of an offence.</p>
3.	What is a “data controller”?	<p><u>Data Controller</u></p> <p>A “data controller” exercises control over personal data; they determine why and how personal data is processed. As defined by the DPL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>the person who, alone or jointly with others determines the purposes, conditions and manner in which any personal data are, or are to be, processed and includes a local representative</i> <p>You are a data controller if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>established in the Cayman Islands, and the personal data is processed in the context of that establishment; or,</i> - <i>not established in the Cayman Islands but the data is being processed in the Cayman Islands (otherwise than for transit purposes).</i> <p>In all situations, a Cayman fund is the “data controller”.</p>
4.	What is a “data processor”?	<p><u>Data Processor</u></p> <p>A ‘data processor’ processes personal data on behalf of a data controller and does not itself determine why personal data should be processed. However, a data processor may, to a certain extent, decide on how the personal data should be processed. As defined by the DPL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>any person who processes personal data on behalf of a data controller but, for the avoidance of doubt, does not include an employee of the data controller</i> <p>In most situations, Citco Cayman is the “data processor”. Where Citco determines the why and how personal data is processed, Citco is the “data controller”. For example, this situation would arise during the processing of information for AML/KYC purposes.</p>

5.	Do I need a “representative”?	<p>Where Citco services client entities that have been incorporated or established in Cayman, those client entities (subject to some exemptions) would <i>not</i> require a Cayman local representative as they would be treated as “established” in Cayman in accordance with Section 6(3). If not, the entity must nominate a local representative.</p> <p>- Section 6(2) of the DPL, a Data Controller “shall nominate, for the purposes of this Law, a local representative established in the Islands who shall, for all purposes within the Islands, be the data controller and, without limiting the generality of this provision, bear all obligations under this Law as if the representative was a data controller.”</p>
6.	What are my contractual obligations as a controller?	<p>A data controller who engages a data processor must ensure that the engagement is based on a written contract which contains certain prescribed assurances which conforms to the requirements of the DPL regarding the processing of personal data.</p> <p>If the Cayman fund does fall within the extra territorial scope of the GDPR and the fund finds itself within the scope of both the GDPR and Cayman law, it results in GDPR Article 28 contractual assurance provisions being required to be entered into with service providers. .</p>
7.	What is considered “processing of personal data”?	<p>The DPL defines this broadly. Processing can be defined as:</p> <p><i>obtaining, recording or holding data, or carrying out any operation or set of operations on personal data, including -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) organizing, adapting or altering the personal data;</i> <i>(b) retrieving, consulting or using the personal data;</i> <i>(c) disclosing the personal data by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making it available; or</i> <i>(d) aligning, combining, blocking, erasing or destroying the personal data</i>
8.	What has Citco done to prepare for the DPL?	<p>Citco has put together a comprehensive privacy program in 2016 to oversee the implementation of the GDPR. It took into account Privacy Leadership, Training & Awareness, Compliance with laws and regulations, Security, Incident Response, Policies and Procedures, Privacy by Design and Default, Individual Data Subject Rights, Privacy Controls & Risk Management, and Enforcement & Redress. Because of this, (contractual amendments notwithstanding), we feel we conform to all the requirements of the Cayman DPL.</p> <p>You may visit our privacy page or see the table below for additional information.</p>

Comparison between GDPR and Cayman DPL

Generally, the GDPR and DPL contain similar provisions. The table below outlines the differences.¹

Subject	GDPR	Cayman DPL
Data Controller	The person who, alone or with others, determines the purposes, conditions and means of the processing of Personal Data	DPL applies to any Data Controller in respect of Personal Data (a) established and processed in the Cayman Islands; or (b) processed in the Cayman Islands otherwise than for the purposes of transit. ²
Retention Period	Personal data should not be kept for longer than is necessary to fulfil the purpose for which it was originally collected. Controllers must inform data subjects of the period of time (or reasons why) data will be retained on collection.	Not a requirement under DPL. However, as with the GDPR, if there is no compelling reason for a Data Controller to retain Personal Data, a data subject can request its secure deletion. Personal data should not be kept for longer than is necessary to fulfil the purpose for which it was originally collected.
Data Security	Minimum security measures are prescribed as pseudonymisation and encryption, ability to restore the availability and access to data, regularly testing, assessing and evaluating security measures.	Appropriate technical and organizational measures must be taken to prevent unauthorized or unlawful processing of Personal Data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, Personal Data. ³
Data Processors	Security requirements are extended to data processors as well as Data Controllers.	There is no liability for processors under DPL. However, they may be held liable based on contract or tort law.
Data Breach	Data Controllers must notify the regulatory authority of Personal Data breaches without undue delay and, where feasible, not later than 72 hours after having become aware of a breach.	In the event of a Personal Data breach, the Data Controller must, “without undue delay” but no longer than five (5) days after the Data Controller should have been aware of that breach, notify the Ombudsman and any affected individuals. ⁴
Direct Marketing and Consent	The Data Controller must inform individuals of their right to object “at the point of first communication” and in a data privacy notice (DPN). For any consent to be valid it needs to be obvious what the data is going to be used for at the point of data collection and the Data Controller needs to be able to show clearly how consent was gained and when it was obtained.	Including an unsubscribe facility in each marketing communication is recommended best practice. If an individual continues to accept the services of the Data Controller without objection, consent can be implied.

¹ Obtained from [Loeb Smith](#)

² See Art. 6 of the DPL

³ See Schedule 1 of the DPL

⁴ See Art. 16 of the DPL

Subject	GDPR	Cayman DPL
Data Processors	The GDPR sets out more detailed statutory requirements to apply to the controller/processor relationship, and to processors in general. Data Processors are now directly subject to regulation and are prohibited from processing Personal Data except on instructions from the Data Controller.	Best practice would always be to put in place a contract between a controller and processor. Essentially, the contract should require the Data Processor to level-up its policies and procedures for handling personal data to ensure compliance with DPL. Use of sub-contractors by the service provider should be prohibited without the prior approval of the Data Controller. ⁵
Data Protection Officer	Mandatory if the core activities of the Data Controller consist of processing operations which require large scale, regular and systematic monitoring of individuals or large scale processing of sensitive Personal Data.	Does not require the appointment, although this is recommended best practice.
Penalties	Two tiers of sanctions, with maximum fines of up to €20 million or 4% of annual worldwide turnover, whichever is greater.	Refusal to comply or failure to comply with an order issued by the Ombudsman is an offence. Penalties are also included for unlawful obtaining or disclosing Personal Data. ⁶ Directors may be held liable under certain conditions. ⁷ The Data Controller is liable on conviction to a fine up to CI\$100,000 or imprisonment for a term of 5 years or both. Monetary penalty orders of an amount up to CI\$250,000 may also be issued against a Data Controller.

⁵ Under DPL, the Data Controller is liable for breaches and non-compliance, whereas processors may not be. It is therefore very important for a funds BOD to ensure that adequate contractual protections are in place.

⁶ See Arts. 53-54 of the DPL

⁷ See Art. 58 of the DPL

Data Protection Fact Sheet

Ten Steps To Take ⁸	Citco's Response
1. Become aware	Face-to-face sessions were conducted in Citco Cayman to apprise staff of the new DPL coming into effect.
2. Know the data you hold	Data mapping was completed for all Citco applications
3. Privacy notices	Our DPN is available at www.citco.com and updated on a regular basis as required.
4. Individuals' rights	We have procedures in place to cover all the rights of individuals.
5. Subject access requests	This process has been documented and a procedure is already in place to deal with these requests
6. Legal basis of processing personal data	Generally, the conditions under which we process personal data are: contract, legal obligation or legitimate interest.
7. How to use consent	This is mostly required when processing personal data for marketing purposes. This is covered under existing procedures and with our existing application for marketing.
8. Data breaches	We have created a procedure specifically for Data Breaches. This will be used in the case of a breach affecting any Citco entity/Data Subject in any jurisdiction.
9. Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA) and Privacy by Design and Default (PbDD)	DPIAs have been completed for all applications. PbDD framework created and in place; e-learning is mandatory for on-boarded IT staff and yearly thereafter. DPIA and PbDD has been incorporated in our Software Development Lifecycle.
10. Cross-border issues	Generally, the conditions under which we transfer personal data are for: The performance of a contract, legal obligation or legitimate interest. Citco has also executed an intra-group data transfer agreement which incorporates the model contractual clauses for the transfer of personal data to processors in third countries.

⁸ Cayman Islands Ombudsman - https://ombudsman.ky/images/pdf/pol_guide/OMB-DP-Fact-Sheet-Ten-steps-20180529.pdf

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