

THE SHRED-IT GDPR COMPLIANCE SURVEY

Shred-it, one of the UK's leading information security companies and a Stericycle solution, commissioned an independent survey of 1439 SMEs to understand attitudes towards data protection on the **first anniversary of GDPR**.

While the findings reveal a positive understanding and engagement with the principles of GDPR on the surface, they highlight a possible cosmetic approach to GDPR and raise areas of concern around the more complex aspects of full compliance.

Here's what our survey found:

ARE SMEs FULLY COMPLIANT WITH THE GDPR?

-  **72%** of SMEs say they are **very aware** of the GDPR requirements
-  Despite the high levels of awareness, **60%** report that the GDPR has had a **slight or no impact** on their business, **8%** did not know
-  Only **32%** of SMEs state that the **GDPR has had a considerable or great impact** on their business
-  When asked about the main actions taken, responses included **policies (45%)** and **emailing customers for consent (35%)**
-  Of the **10%** that said they're not at all or not quite ready, **42%** said they have **not been dealing with it**

SMEs SAY THEY ARE COMPLIANT. BUT ARE THEY REALLY?

-  **1.** On the surface, the findings suggest that **UK SMEs are GDPR ready** and have little to do to maintain compliance.
-  **2.** However, there appears to be **low level awareness of back-end compliance requirements**.
-  **3.** **Data breaches and disclosing requirements** was cited as a key GDPR challenge.
-  **4.** Two in five would only trust someone in-house to help them comply; only **10%** would use external support.
-  **5.** Of those who have had external help with GDPR, only **6%** reported that identifying and reporting a breach was something they addressed.
-  **6.** 72% of those businesses that would consider external support, **were unsure when they would need it.**

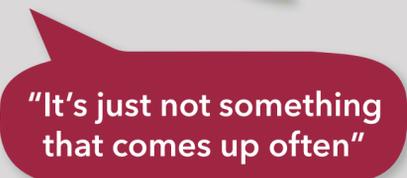
“ These unprompted responses suggest that many feel they are compliant having reviewed areas such as consent activities and privacy notices. These typically deal with front end aspects of GDPR but raise questions around compliance at depth, such as SMEs' ability to respond to a data breach or how to respond to a subject access request. ”

SMEs: WHAT GDPR PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE?

Although SMEs report high awareness of GDPR requirements, preparations made include:

Reviewing policies	Emailing customers for consent	Informing customers about a privacy notice	Publishing a privacy notice	Reviewing, deleting or destroying personal data
45%	35%	23%	23%	21%
				

COMMON RESPONSES TO HOW GDPR HAS AFFECTED SMEs INCLUDE:

-  "We just had to ensure we ask customers for consent"
-  "We are B2B and the GDPR is B2C"
-  "It just involves slightly more paperwork"
-  "It's just not something that comes up often"
-  "Our privacy note was amended"

It's clear not all have understood the far-reaching impact of the GDPR

SHRED-IT: KEEPING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL



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With more than 500,000 customers worldwide, **we've got the industry expertise** you need.



We provide **advice and support** regarding how to effectively protect sensitive information.

Shred-it services deliver peace of mind that confidential information is being securely protected, managed and destroyed.

We protect what matters.
Need help to boost your GDPR compliance?
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