



Subject Access Request Policy

This policy was adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 11 January 2024 and was last reviewed at its meeting held on 8 January 2026

1. Introduction

Individuals, also known as data subjects, have the right to access personal data held on them by Darrington Parish Council.

Details are set out in the General Privacy Notice, which is available on the Council's Website or by emailing clerk@darrington-pc.gov.uk.

This policy advises of the internal processes on handling of Subject Access Requests (SARs) and includes information on:

- Responsibilities;
- Timing;
- Changes to data; and
- Handling requests for rectification, erasure or restriction of processing.

The Council will always ensure that personal data is easily accessible, to enable a timely response to SARs, and that personal data on specific data subjects can be easily filtered.

2. Upon receipt of a Subject Access Request

- It will be verified that the Council is a Data Controller of the data subject's personal data. Once verified, the data subject will be informed who at the Council to contact regarding the handling of their SAR.
- The identity of the data subject will be verified and, if needed, any further evidence on the identity of the data subject may be requested.
- The SAR will be verified. Is it sufficiently substantiated and is it clear to the Data Controller what personal data is requested? If not, additional information will be requested.
- Requests will be verified to check if they are unfounded or excessive (in particular because of their repetitive character). If they are, the Council may refuse to act on the request or charge a reasonable fee.
- Receipt of the SAR will be promptly acknowledged, and the data subject will be informed of any costs involved in the processing of the SAR.
- Whether the Council processes the data requested, will be verified. If the Council does not process any data, the data subject will be informed accordingly. At all times, the internal SAR policy will be followed, and progress may be monitored.
- Data will not be changed because of the SAR. Routine changes, as part of the processing activities concerned, may be permitted.
- The data requested will be verified to establish if it involves data on other data subjects. This data will be filtered before the requested data is supplied to the data subject. If data cannot be filtered, other data subjects will be contacted to give consent to the supply of their data as part of the SAR.

3. Responding to a Subject Access Request

- The Council will respond to a SAR within one calendar month after receipt of the request:
 - i.* If more time is needed to respond to complex requests, an extension of another two months is permissible, and this will be communicated to the data subject in a timely manner within the first month;
 - ii.* If the Council cannot provide the information requested, it will inform the data subject on this decision without delay and, at the latest, within one calendar month of receipt of the request.
- If a SAR is submitted in electronic form, any personal data will be preferably provided by electronic means as well.
- If data on the data subject is processed, the Council will ensure, as a minimum, the following information in the SAR response:
 - i.* the purposes of the processing;
 - ii.* the categories of personal data concerned;
 - iii.* the recipients or categories of recipients to whom personal data has been or will be disclosed;
 - iv.* where possible, the envisaged period for which personal data will be stored, or, if not possible, the criteria used to determine that period;
 - v.* the existence of the right to request rectification or erasure of personal data, or restriction of processing of personal data concerning the Data Subject or to object to such processing;
 - vi.* the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioners Office (the ICO);
 - vii.* if the data has not been collected from the data subject: the source of such data;
 - viii.* the existence of any automated decision-making, including profiling and any meaningful information about the logic involved, as well as the significance and the envisaged consequences of such processing for the data subject.
- The Council will provide a copy of the personal data undergoing processing.

4. Implementing the Subject Access Requests Policy

- On receipt of a SAR, it must be forwarded immediately to Cllr L. Dale (Laurie.Dale@darrington-pc.gov.uk) as nominated Data Controller who will decide whether a request has been made under the Data Protection legislation.
- The Data Controller must ensure the request has been received in writing, where a data subject is asking for sufficiently well-defined personal data held by the Council, relating to the data subject. What personal data is needed will be clarified with the requestor, who must supply their address and valid evidence to prove their identity. The Council accepts the following forms of identification:
 - Current UK/EEA Passport
 - UK Photocard Driving Licence (Full or Provisional)
 - Firearms Licence/Shotgun Certificate
 - EEA National Identity Card
 - Full UK Paper Driving Licence
 - State Benefits Entitlement Document*
 - State Pension Entitlement Document*
 - HMRC Tax Credit Document*

- Local Authority Benefit Document*
- State/Local Authority Educational Grant Document*
- HMRC Tax Notification Document
- Disabled Driver's Pass
- Financial Statement issued by bank, building society or credit card company+
- Judiciary Document such as a Notice of Hearing, Summons or Court Order
- Utility bill for supply of gas, electric, water or telephone landline+
- Most recent Mortgage Statement
- Most recent Council Tax Bill/Demand or Statement
- Tenancy Agreement
- Building Society Passbook which shows a transaction in the last 3 months and your address

* (These documents must be dated * in the past 12 months; + in the past 3 months)

- All the personal data that has been requested must be provided unless an exemption applies. (This will involve a search of emails/recoverable emails, word documents, spreadsheets, databases, systems, removable media (for example, memory sticks, floppy disks, CDs), tape recordings, paper records in relevant filing systems).
- A response must be provided within one calendar month after accepting the request as valid.
- The Council must provide, where necessary, an explanation with the personal data in an "intelligible form", which will include giving an explanation of any codes, acronyms and complex terms. The personal data will be supplied in a permanent form except where the requestor agrees or where it is impossible or would involve undue effort. Agreement may be sought with the requestor that they will view the personal data on screen. Any exempt personal data will be redacted from the released documents with an explanation why that personal data is being withheld.
- SARs will be undertaken free of charge to the requestor unless the legislation permits reasonable fees to be charged.
- The Council must ensure that all staff are aware of and follow this guidance.
- Where a requestor is not satisfied with a response to a SAR, the Council must manage this as a complaint under the Council Complaints Procedure.