

Data & User Protection Legislation

Information Technology has opened organisations and individuals to all kinds of new threats. Hackers, viruses, health issues, piracy, these are all made possible due to IT systems. In order to help protect us from these threats, there have been a number of laws passed. Much of this is to protect the data stored on IT systems, such as from viruses. However, there are also laws to protect the individuals that are using the IT systems.

Legislation	Explanation
The Computer Misuse Act (1990)	The Computer Misuse Act (1990) protects users against the theft and damage of the information they store using IT systems. There are different punishments depending on the crime, but could be as much as 10 years in jail and/or a large fine.
The Police and Justice Act 2006 (Computer Misuse)	The Police and Justice Act 2006 (Computer Misuse) extended the Computer Misuse Act so that it covered Denial of Service Attacks as well as the making, supplying or obtaining anything which can be used in computer misuse offences.
The Data Protection Act (1998)	The Data Protection Act (1998) protects the privacy of individuals by ensuring that their personal information is processed in an ethical manner. There are 8 principles that must be complied with. If in breach of the DPA then an organisation can be fined as much as £500,000.
The Copyright, Designs & Patents Act (1988)	The Copyright, Designs & Patents Act (1988) protect the creators of original works by giving them the right to control how these original works are used. This is usually punished through damages being paid, however, it can receive as much as 10 years jail time.
The Copyright (Computer Programs) Regulations (1992)	The Copyright (Computer Programs) Regulations (1992) extended the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act to ensure that computer programs are covered under copyright.
The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992)	The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992) extended the Health & Safety at Work Act so that users of display screen equipment are not harmed in some way. Failure to comply with these regulations is normally punished through a fine, though imprisonment is also possible.
The Consumer Right Act (2015)	The Consumer Right Act (2015) brought together all existing consumer rights legislation into a single act. It also ensured digital content is covered by consumer rights for the first time. This gives consumers the right to repair, replacement or refunds should digital content be faulty. Consumers can also take businesses to court should they not receive this.

Accessibility Legislation & Guidelines

Information technology is not always very accessible to people with disabilities. For example, content is often very visual and not easily accessible to people with visual impairments. This can have big impacts on the lives of people with disabilities who cannot perform their job as easily and miss out on many of the benefits of IT systems. However it is possible to make IT systems accessible, but it does require businesses to put some effort into ensuring they are. This might be installing adaptive technologies for example. To ensure businesses do this correctly there have been a number of laws passed and guidelines written.

F2 Legal issues

Legislation	Explanation
The Disability Discrimination Act (1995)	The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) was a piece of legislation designed to prevent businesses & government from discriminating against the disabled.
The Disability Discrimination Act (2005)	The Disability Discrimination Act (2005) was a new version of the legislation that made substantial amendments to the original 1995 act.
The Equality Act (2010)	The Equality Act (2010) replaced the Disability Discrimination Act, along with 115 other pieces of legislation, including the Sex Discrimination Act, Equal Pay Act and Race Relations Act. It mostly carried through the provisions of the DDA but did make a number of changes.
Guidelines	Explanation
The British Standards Institute	The British Standards Institute are an organisation who define national standards for best practice in a number of areas. As part of this, they have defined a wide range of standards such as the Web Accessibility Codes of Practice.
The Open Accessibility Framework	The Open Accessibility Framework is a guideline for ensuring any IT system is accessible, whether it is desktop, mobile or web-based.
The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines	The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 and 2.0 define guidelines for making web applications accessible.

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