



Political Studies Association

PSA Privacy Policy

The Political Studies Association (PSA) takes its duty to process your personal data very seriously. This policy explains how we collect, manage, use and protect your personal data.

This policy has been updated to reflect the implementation of the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) in May 2018.

Refer to the sections below for more details on how and why we use your personal information:

- Who are we?
- The personal data we collect and how we use it
- What are your rights?
- Legitimate interests
- Retaining your information

Who are we?

The PSA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1071825) at Elizabeth Meehan Suite, Regent House – Unit 2, Pratt Mews, London, NW1 0AD.

What personal data we collect and how we use it:

When registering for an account on the PSA website you tick a box opting in to receive journals and communications from the PSA.

What we need:

As a learned society, we collect information that we need to deliver our membership benefits and carry out our charitable aims and objectives, these include organising conferences, publishing, grant funding, knowledge exchange, policy work and other related activities. We will only use your personal data on relevant lawful grounds as permitted by the EU GDPR, UK Data Protection Act and PECR.

The PSA is what is known as the ‘controller’ of the personal data you provide to us. We will usually collect basic personal data about you like your name, postal address, telephone number, email address and your bank details for subscription fees and ad hoc payments such as events.

We will be very clear with you if we wish to collect further information, such as date of birth, and include our reason for collecting such information.

PSA members’ data is held on secure servers for the purpose of conducting membership business only.

If you do not want us to use your data then you have the option to object to such use.

Why we need it

We collect your personal data for specific activities, such as project updates, newsletters, registration, provision of journals and other resources or membership requests, surveys and events. These are summarised as:

1. To provide you with information that we feel may be of interest to you (for example, to notify you about a forthcoming event)
2. To meet our contractual obligations to you
3. To notify you about any changes to our website, including improvements, and service or product changes that may affect our website.

The information is either needed to fulfil your request or to enable us to provide you with membership services. If you choose to withhold requested information, we may not be able to provide you with all the member benefits.

E-newsletters

Many of our communications are created in-house but on occasion we may use a third party provider, such as [Campaign Monitor](#) to deliver our e-newsletters. We gather statistics around email opening and clicks using industry standard technologies to help us monitor and improve our communications including our e-newsletter.

Our marketing

Sometimes, we will process your personal data to provide you with information about our work or our activities that you have requested or are expecting.

On other occasions, we may process personal data when we need to do this to fulfil a contract (for example, if you have purchased an event ticket or journal) or where we are required to do this by law or other regulations.

The PSA also processes your data when it is in our legitimate interests to do this and when these interests do not override your rights. Those legitimate interests include providing you with information on our activity updates, newsletters, registration or membership requests, feedback, competition entries and events. We may also include information on work with PSA partners, of direct relevance and interest to you. Please see the section on 'Legitimate Interest' for more information.

How we obtain your details

We will also hold information about you so that we can respect your preferences for being contacted by us.

We collect your personal information in a number of ways:

- When you provide it to us directly
- When you provide permission to other organisations to share it with us (including social media)
- When we collect it as you use our websites or apps (see website policy below)
- When you have given it to a third party and you have provided permission to pass your information on to us
- From publicly available sources.

We combine the information from these sources with the information you provide to us directly.

Disclosing Your Information

We may only disclose your personal information to third parties:

1. Where we outsource any or all of our activities to independent contractor(s) (as 'data processors')
2. Where we are legally required to disclose your information, for example, in response to a mandatory request from law enforcement authorities
3. To assist fraud reduction and minimise credit risks.

We work with the following companies with whom we may share your data for administrative purposes:

- Our publishers, SAGE and Taylor & Francis
- Our CRM website provider, Compucorp
- Our Events platform providers, Ex Ordo and Eventbrite
- Our Direct Debit provider, SD Worx
- Our Credit Card payment provider, Stripe
- Our Survey provider, SurveyMonkey

Membership applications

When submitting a membership or supporter application, personal data will be required. Should an application be successful, all the policies and procedures outlined in this document will apply with regard to personal data retention. For those whose applications are unsuccessful, we only hold the information for a limited period after refusal and any personally identifiable details are removed.

Children

If you are under 18 years of age, please ensure you obtain your parent/guardian's consent before sending any personal information to PSA. Please note we will not knowingly communicate to persons under 18 years without that written consent.

Geographic location of data storage

All the personal data we hold is processed by our staff in the UK.

What are your rights?

GDPR, implemented on 25th May 2018, gives all individuals a number of rights relating to their personal data held by companies, organisations and other third parties. These are right of:

- Access: Giving transparency over the information held about you, which will be provided to you within one month
- To be informed: Giving transparency over how your personal information is used
- Of rectification: The right to have your information updated or amended if it is wrong
- To restrict processing: You may ask to stop third parties using your information
- To be 'forgotten': Ask us to remove your personal information from our records
- To object: Object to the processing of your information for marketing purposes
- Of data portability: To obtain and reuse your personal data for your own purposes
- To withdraw from automated decision making and profiling: Not be subject to a decision when it is based on automated processing

If you would like to know more about your rights under the data protection law see the

[Information Commissioner's Office](#) website.

If you would like to change the way you hear from us or no longer wish to receive direct marketing communications from us, please use the contact form on our 'Contact Us' page or go to our online Permission Portal and amend your details in the 'my account' area of our website.

Legitimate interests

There are a number of lawful reasons that mean we can use (or 'process') your personal information, including 'legitimate interests'. Broadly speaking 'Legitimate Interests' means we can process your personal information if:

1. We have a genuine and legitimate reason to do so
2. We are not harming any of your rights and interests.

Sharing your information

We will never sell your personal information to other organisations.

We only disclose information to third parties or individuals when obliged to by law, for purposes of national security, taxation and criminal investigations, and the following:

- If you have agreed we may do so
- When we use other companies to provide services on our behalf, e.g. processing, mailing or delivering orders, answering questions, sending mail and emails or processing credit/debit card payments
- If we receive a complaint about any content you have posted or transmitted to or from one of our sites, to enforce or apply our Terms & Conditions or if we believe that we need to do so to protect and defend the rights, property or personal safety of the PSA, our websites or our visitors and for other lawful purposes
- If we merge with another organisation to form a new entity, information may be transferred to the new entity.
- We may disclose aggregate statistics about our site visitors, to describe our services and operations to prospective partners, advertisers and other reputable third parties and for other lawful purposes, but these statistics won't include any personally identifying information.

Retaining your information

We hold your information only as long as necessary for the purpose of completing the activity for which it was collated.

If you decide not to support the PSA any more or request that we have no further contact with you, we will keep some basic information in order to avoid sending you unwanted materials in the future and to ensure that we don't accidentally duplicate information.

Access to Information

All individuals have the right to access personal information that is held about them. You can request a copy of any information that we hold about you. Please contact us if you wish to make such a request by emailing info@psa.ac.uk

Information Collected from Website Visitors

In running and operating this website, the PSA may collect and process certain data and information relating to you and your use of this site. This information is anonymous and is used for analysing website traffic. For details, please see our Cookie Policy below.

Where we have given you (or where you have chosen) a password so that you can access certain parts of our site, you are responsible for keeping this password confidential.

Third Party Links

You may from time to time find links to third party websites on our website and in our newsletters or other communications. These websites should have their own privacy policies which you should check. We do not accept any responsibility or liability for their policies whatsoever as we have no control over them.

Cookie policy

Cookies are small text files that are placed on your computer by websites that you visit which allow us to collect the above information. This means that our website will remember you for a reason and help to personalise your experience. The information provided to us through this method can include details about your device, the browsing system you use and any issues that may arise including a website crash.

The types of cookies we use include session and persistent cookies. Session cookies are temporary and are only stored until you close your browser or leave our website. Persistent cookies last for a longer period and allow our website to recognise you on return visits.

From time to time we may embed content from other sites such as Twitter and YouTube. In such cases, where content is embedded or content can be shared on other sites, these third-party websites may place cookies within our website. The Association does not have control over the settings of these cookies. Therefore, you should check the relevant third-party website below for more information on their cookie policy.

Twitter: [How Twitter uses cookies](#)

YouTube: [Google Privacy Policy](#)

Further information is available from <http://www.allaboutcookies.org>

You can turn off cookies through your browser settings at any time if you do not want your browser to accept cookies. You can also delete existing cookies in your browser settings. In order to clear and remove cookies, this can be done through the Options menu in Internet Explorer, the Tools drop-down in Google Chrome and Options and Privacy tabs in Firefox.

Note: deleting all cookies will remove pre-filled data fields such as usernames and passwords for websites.

This privacy policy is reviewed periodically. For any queries or privacy requests, please contact info@psa.ac.uk

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