



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Enquiries Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how we will process your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

This privacy notice covers personal data we process when you contact us through the "Get in touch" enquiry form on the Sovereign AI Fund website. For data protection purposes, the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) is the data controller. BIST was established following the July 2026 Machinery of Government changes, under which relevant functions transferred from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), which was the former data controller.

If your enquiry leads you to make a formal application to one of the Sovereign AI Fund's schemes - including the investment programme, the Strategic Assets Programme (grants), compute access or visa scheme - a separate privacy notice for that scheme will apply to the personal data you provide as part of that application.

1. Your Data

We will process the following personal data:

- Your full name
- Your email address
- The name of your organisation (where provided)
- Your background or role, as selected from the options provided (for example: Press / Media, Founder, VC / Investor, or Other)
- Any personal data you choose to include in the free-text message field, including information about you, your organisation, or others you refer to

Where we did not obtain your personal data directly from you, it will have been provided by reference from a colleague or organisational cofounder.

2. Purpose

The purpose(s) for which we are processing your personal data is:

- To respond to your enquiry and communicate with you about it

- To understand the nature of your enquiry and direct it to the relevant team within the Sovereign AI Fund
- To maintain a record of enquiries and our engagement with individuals and organisations across the AI ecosystem
- To inform and support the Sovereign AI Fund's sourcing, relationship management and wider delivery of its functions

3. Legal basis of processing

1(e) Public task: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. The public task is to operate the Sovereign AI Fund and engage with founders, investors, institutions and others across the AI ecosystem in support of the Fund's mission to anchor and grow strategically significant AI companies in the UK. Responding to and managing enquiries received through the Fund's website is a necessary part of delivering this task.

4. Recipients

Your personal data will only be processed by Sovereign AI Fund and wider BIST/DSIT personnel who handle and respond to enquiries.

We may share your data if we are required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

As part of our IT infrastructure, your personal data will be processed on systems provided by our data processors, including Microsoft and Amazon Web Services. We also use other third-party processors to support the handling and management of enquiries, including customer relationship management systems. This does not mean we actively share your personal data with these entities; rather, they are service providers who process personal data on our behalf and under our instruction.

5. Retention

Your personal data will be held for 3 years from the date of your enquiry.

6. International Transfers

Your personal data will be processed in the UK and European Economic Area (EEA) with the needed safeguards in place, notably the UK Adequacy Regulations.

7. Your Rights

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data.

To exercise your rights please contact the Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.

8. Contact Details

The data controller for your personal data is the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST). During Sovereign AI's transition phase to BIST, you can contact the DSIT Data Protection Officer at:

DSIT Data Protection Officer
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Email: dataprotection@dsit.gov.uk

New BIST contact details will be provided in due course.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your personal data, please write to the department's Data Protection Officer in the first instance using the contact details above.

9. Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is a UK independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

10. Updates to this notice

If this privacy notice changes in any way, we will place an updated version on this page. Regularly reviewing this page ensures you are always aware of what information we collect, how we use it, and under what circumstances we will share it with other parties. The 'last updated' date at the bottom of this page will also change.

If these changes affect how your personal data is processed, we will take reasonable steps to let you know.

Last updated: 01.09.26



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Compute Programme Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how we will process your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

This privacy notice covers all personal data processing carried out by the Sovereign AI Fund within the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) in connection with access to public compute through the AI Research Resource (AIRR). For data protection purposes, BIST is the data controller for this scheme. BIST was established following the July 2026 Machinery of Government changes, under which relevant functions transferred from DSIT, which was the former data controller.

1. Your Data

We will process the following personal data:

- Names, job titles, business email addresses and business telephone numbers of the named contact / applicant representative
- The name of the individual making the eligibility and accuracy declarations, and confirmation that they are authorised to submit the application on behalf of the applicant organisation.
- Names, roles and professional credentials of key team members disclosed in support of the application, including career histories, educational backgrounds, professional achievements and biographical information
- Names and details of consortium partners and their representatives
- Names and job roles of individuals named in letters of support
- Assessment records and correspondence referencing named individuals generated during the assessment process (e.g. scoring notes, clarification or interview correspondence)
- Any personal data incidentally included in free-text responses or supporting materials

Where personal data has not been obtained from the data subject, it may have been obtained from the applicant organisation itself (which provides personal data about its founders, employees, advisers and named partners), from publicly available sources used for verification (e.g. Companies House registration and director records; published research, patents or professional

profiles used to verify stated credentials), and from third parties named in the application (e.g. consortium partners, collaborators or referees who provide letters of support).

2. Purpose

The purpose(s) for which we are processing your personal data is:

- To facilitate the operational delivery of the Sovereign AI compute offer through the AI Research Resource (AIRR)
- To assess applications against the eligibility and published assessment criteria (including strategic relevance to UK capability, scaling pathway, technical quality and research ambition, and compute requirement)
- To conduct due diligence and eligibility verification on applicants
- To allocate and manage access to national compute infrastructure
- To share applicant details with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), for onboarding, compliance checks and subsidy-control checks required to access national compute infrastructure
- For the prevention, investigation and detection of fraud in connection with the compute offer and the use of public resources
- To communicate with applicants about their application and allocation
- To carry out audit, assurance, reporting and compliance activities associated with the use of public resources
- To enable monitoring and evaluation of the scheme to understand its impact and inform adjustments

3. Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data under Article 6 of the UK GDPR is

1(e) Public task: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. The public task is to allocate and administer access to national high-performance compute infrastructure through the AI Research Resource (AIRR) to support strategically significant AI research and development in the UK. By providing targeted access to sovereign compute, the scheme advances Sovereign AI's mission to anchor and grow strategically significant AI companies in the UK and deliver public benefit.

4. Recipients

Your personal data may be shared by us with:

- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), for onboarding, compliance checks, subsidy-control checks and access to national compute infrastructure
- External technical assessors (subject matter experts) engaged to assess compute applications
- Our appointed third-party evaluation partners to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the programme
- Other public bodies where information sharing is necessary to assess eligibility, manage public resources, investigate suspected fraud, or comply with legal obligations

We may share your data if we are required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

As part of our IT infrastructure, your personal data will be processed on systems provided by our data processors, including Microsoft and Amazon Web Services. We also use other third-party processors to support the administration and assessment of applications, including customer relationship management systems. This does not mean we actively share your personal data with these entities; rather, they are service providers who process personal data on our behalf and under our instruction.

5. Retention

Your personal data will be kept by us until 31 March 2030, in line with the end of the current Spending Review period for the Sovereign AI compute offer.

6. International Transfers

Your personal data will be processed in the UK and European Economic Area (EEA) with the needed safeguards in place, notably the UK Adequacy Regulations.

7. Your Rights

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data.

To exercise your rights please contact the Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.

8. Contact Details

The data controller for your personal data is the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST). During Sovereign AI's transition phase to BIST, you can contact the DSIT Data Protection Officer at:

DSIT Data Protection Officer
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Email: dataprotection@dsit.gov.uk

New BIST contact details will be provided in due course.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your personal data, please write to the department's Data Protection Officer in the first instance using the contact details above.

9. Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an UK independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

10. Updates to this notice

If this privacy notice changes in any way, we will place an updated version on this page. Regularly reviewing this page ensures you are always aware of what information we collect, how we use it, and under what circumstances we will share it with other parties. The 'last updated' date at the bottom of this page will also change.

If these changes affect how your personal data is processed, we will take reasonable steps to let you know.

Last updated: 24.08.26



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Strategic Assets Programme Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how we will process your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

This privacy notice covers all personal data processing carried out by the Sovereign AI Fund within the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) under the Strategic Assets Programme. For data protection purposes, BIST is the data controller for this scheme. BIST was established following the July 2026 Machinery of Government changes, under which relevant functions transferred from DSIT, which was the former data controller.

1. Your Data

We will process the following personal data:

- Names, job titles, email addresses and telephone numbers of key individuals associated with the applicant organisation
- Contact details provided through the Expression of Interest (EOI) and Full Application processes, where they relate to identifiable individuals
- Personal information provided as part of conflict of interest declarations submitted by applicants e.g. personal, professional or financial interests that could create a conflict
- Information about key personnel submitted to support the application, including CVs, professional experience, qualifications and project roles
- Names and personal details of project partners, consortium members and subcontractors
- Ownership and shareholding data relating to identifiable individuals

Where personal data has not been obtained from the data subject, it may have been obtained from third parties including project partners, subcontractors, government departments, due diligence providers (such as Creditsafe and Spotlight), public registers (including Companies House), sanctions databases, publicly available media sources, financial records and other public sector bodies where necessary.

2. Purpose

The purpose(s) for which we are processing your personal data is:

- To facilitate the operational delivery of the Sovereign AI Strategic Assets Programme

- To assess eligibility, suitability and strategic fit at Expression of Interest and Full Application stages
- To conduct due diligence on applicants, directors, project partners and subcontractors
- To make grant award decisions
- To conduct fraud prevention, sanctions screening, financial crime prevention and other integrity assurance checks
- To identify and manage conflicts of interest
- To manage, monitor and administer grant agreements and grant payments under the scheme
- To communicate with applicants, grant recipients and project partners
- To carry out audit, assurance, reporting and compliance activities associated with the use of public funds
- To enable monitoring and evaluation of the scheme to understand its impact and inform adjustments
- To refer grant applicants and recipients to broader Sovereign AI cross-government support functions with your consent

3. Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data under Article 6 of the UK GDPR is:

1(e) Public task: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. The public task is to award and administer grant funding under the Strategic Assets Programme under the Science and Technology Act 1965. By funding the creation of shared strategic AI assets that would otherwise be under-provided by the market, the Strategic Assets Programme advances Sovereign AI's mission to anchor and grow strategically significant AI companies in the UK and deliver public benefit.

4. Recipients

Beyond Sovereign AI and wider BIST/DSIT personnel, your personal data may be shared by us with:

- External technical assessors (subject matter experts) engaged to assess grant applications

- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA), where technical or specialist input is required to support assessment, or where information sharing is necessary to coordinate across public funding programmes with overlapping areas of interest and avoid unnecessary duplication
- Due diligence providers, including Creditsafe and Spotlight, for the purposes of identity verification, sanctions screening, financial checks and fraud risk assessments
- Our appointed third-party evaluation partners to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the programme
- Other public bodies where information sharing is necessary to assess eligibility, manage public funds, investigate suspected fraud, or comply with legal obligations

We may share your data if we are required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

As part of our IT infrastructure, your personal data will be processed on systems provided by our data processors, including Microsoft and Amazon Web Services. We also use other third-party processors to support the administration and assessment of applications, including customer relationship management, grant management and due diligence systems. This does not mean we actively share your personal data with these entities; rather, they are service providers who process personal data on our behalf and under our instruction.

5. Retention

Your personal data will be kept by us until 31 March 2030, in line with the end of the current Spending Review period for the Sovereign AI Strategic Assets Programme.

6. International Transfers

Your personal data will be processed in the UK and European Economic Area (EEA) with the needed safeguards in place, notably the UK Adequacy Regulations.

7. Your Rights

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data where it is processed.

To exercise your rights please contact the Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.

8. Contact Details

The data controller for your personal data is the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST). During Sovereign AI's transition phase to BIST, you can contact the DSIT Data Protection Officer at:

DSIT Data Protection Officer
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Email: dataprotection@dsit.gov.uk

New BIST contact details will be provided in due course.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your personal data, please write to the department's Data Protection Officer in the first instance using the contact details above.

9. Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an UK independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

10. Updates to this notice

If this privacy notice changes in any way, we will place an updated version on this page. Regularly reviewing this page ensures you are always aware of what information we collect, how we use it, and under what circumstances we will share it with other parties. The 'last updated' date at the bottom of this page will also change.

If these changes affect how your personal data is processed, we will take reasonable steps to let you know.

Last updated: 24.08.26

Sovereign AI R&D Procurement Scheme Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how we will process your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

This privacy notice covers all personal data processing carried out by the Sovereign AI Fund within the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) under the R&D Procurement Scheme.

For data protection purposes, the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) is the data controller for this scheme. BIST was established following the July 2026 Machinery of Government changes, under which relevant functions transferred from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), which was the former data controller.

1. Your Data

We will process the following personal data:

- Names, job titles, email addresses and telephone numbers of key individuals associated with the applicant organisation
- Contact details provided through the Expression of Interest (EOI) and Full Application processes, where they relate to identifiable individuals
- Personal information provided as part of conflict of interest declarations submitted by applicants e.g. personal, professional or financial interests that could create a conflict
- Information about key personnel submitted to support application, including CVs, professional experience, qualifications and project roles
- Names and personal details of project partners, consortium members and subcontractors
- Ownership and shareholding data relating to identifiable individuals

Where personal data has not been obtained from the data subject, it may have been obtained from third parties including project partners, subcontractors, government departments, due diligence providers (such as Creditsafe and Spotlight), public registers (including Companies House), sanctions databases, publicly available media sources, financial records and other public sector bodies where necessary.

2. Purpose

The purpose(s) for which we are processing your personal data is:

- To facilitate the operational delivery of the Sovereign AI R&D Procurement Scheme
- To assess eligibility for inclusion on the approved supplier list and to make contract award decisions
- To conduct due diligence on applicants, directors, project partners and subcontractors
- To enable monitoring and evaluation of the scheme to understand its impact and inform adjustments
- To conduct fraud prevention, sanctions screening, financial crime prevention and other integrity assurance checks
- To identify and manage conflicts of interest
- To manage, monitor and administer contracts and contract payments under the scheme
- To communicate with suppliers and subcontractors
- To carry out audit, assurance, reporting and compliance activities associated with the use of public funds
- To refer contractors to broader Sovereign AI cross-government support functions with your consent

Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data under Article 6 of the UK GDPR is:

1(e)Public task: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. The public task is to award and administer procurement awards via the Research and Development Exemption under the Procurement Act 2023. By procuring novel AI capabilities that support wider government priorities, the R&D Procurement Scheme will advance Sovereign AI's mission to anchor and grow strategically important AI companies in the UK and deliver public benefit.

3. Recipients

Beyond Sovereign AI and wider DSIT/BIST personnel, your personal data may be shared by us with:

- External technical assessors (subject matter experts) engaged to assess procurement applications
- Government departments participating in the scheme as Challenge Owners, (which may include MOD, DHSC, NCSC and others) for the purposes of assessing applications and overseeing project delivery

- Our appointed third-party evaluation partners to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the programme
- Due diligence providers, including Creditsafe and Spotlight, for the purposes of identity verification, sanctions screening, financial checks and fraud risk assessments
- Other public bodies where information sharing is necessary to assess eligibility, manage public funds, investigate suspected fraud, or comply with legal obligations

We may share your data if we are required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

As part of our IT infrastructure, your personal data will be stored in the UK on systems provided by our data processors – Microsoft and Amazon Web Services. This does not mean we actively share your personal data with these entities; rather, they are technical service providers who host infrastructure supporting our IT systems.

4. Retention

Your personal data will be kept by us until 31 March 2030, in line with the end of the Sovereign AI R&D Procurement Scheme. A refreshed Privacy Notice will be published should there be an extension of the scheme beyond this date.

5. International Transfers

Your personal data will be processed in the UK and European Economic Area (EEA) with the needed safeguards in place, notably the UK Adequacy Regulations, the EU's Standard Contractual Clauses together with an international data transfer addendum, or the International Data Transfer Agreement.

6. Your Rights

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data where it is processed.

To exercise your rights please contact the Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.

7. Contact Details

The data controller for your personal data is the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST). During Sovereign AI's transition phase to BIST, you can contact the DSIT Data Protection Officer at:

DSIT Data Protection Officer
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Email: dataprotection@dsit.gov.uk

New BIST contact details will be provided in due course.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your personal data, please write to the department's Data Protection Officer in the first instance using the contact details above.

8. Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an UK independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

9. Updates to this notice

If this privacy notice changes in any way, we will place an updated version on this page. Regularly reviewing this page ensures you are always aware of what information we collect, how we use it, and under what circumstances we will share it with other parties. The 'last updated' date at the bottom of this page will also change.

If these changes affect how your personal data is processed, we will take reasonable steps to let you know.

Last updated: 24.08.26

Sovereign AI Visa Reimbursement Scheme

Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how we will process your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

1. Your Data

We will process the following personal data:

- Name, date of birth and passport number of eligible worker for whom fee reimbursements are being claimed
- Names and contact details for point of contact at applicant company
- Proof of visa grant for eligible worker
- Proof of fee payments associated with granted visa
- Employment contract or proof of employment

2. Purpose

The purpose(s) for which we are processing your personal data is:

- To facilitate the operational delivery of the Sovereign AI Visa Reimbursement Scheme
- To enable monitoring and evaluation of the scheme to understand its impact and inform adjustments
- For the prevention, investigation and detection of fraud

3. Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data under Article 6 of the UK GDPR is:

1(e)Public task: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. The public task is to administer financial assistance under section 8 of the Industrial Development Act 1982 through the Sovereign AI Visa Reimbursement Scheme. By reimbursing eligible visa-related costs, the scheme reduces barriers to recruiting international AI talent and supports high-potential AI companies to start, scale and remain in the UK, benefiting UK economic and national security.

4. Recipients

Your personal data may be shared by us with the Home Office on a sample basis to verify visa status claims in order to reduce the risk of fraud.

Your personal data may also be shared with our appointed third-party evaluation partners to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

As part of our IT infrastructure, your personal data will be stored in the UK on systems provided by our data processors - Microsoft and Amazon Web Services. This does not mean we actively share your personal data with these entities; rather, they are technical service providers who host infrastructure supporting our IT systems.

5. Retention

Your personal data will be kept by us until 31 March 2030, in line with the end of the Sovereign AI Visa Reimbursement Scheme.

6. Your Rights

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data.

To exercise your rights please contact the Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.

7. Contact Details

The data controller for your personal data is the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). You can contact the DSIT Data Protection Officer at:

DSIT Data Protection Officer
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Email: dataprotection@dsit.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your personal data, please write to the department's Data Protection Officer in the first instance using the contact details above.

8. Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an UK independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

9. Updates to this notice

If this privacy notice changes in any way, we will place an updated version on this page. Regularly reviewing this page ensures you are always aware of what information we collect, how we use it, and under what circumstances we will share it with other parties. The 'last updated' date at the bottom of this page will also change. If these changes affect how your personal data is processed, we will take reasonable steps to let you know.

Last updated: 19 August 2026



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Investment Programme Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how we will process your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

This privacy notice covers all personal data processing carried out by the Sovereign AI Fund within the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) in connection with its investment activity. For data protection purposes, BIST is the data controller for this activity. BIST was established following the July 2026 Machinery of Government changes, under which relevant functions transferred from DSIT, which was the former data controller.

1. Your Data

We will process the following personal data:

- Names, job titles and contact details (including email addresses and telephone numbers) of founders, directors, senior management and key personnel of companies engaging with, or being considered for, investment
- Professional and biographical information about founders and key team members, including career histories, educational backgrounds, qualifications, professional achievements and track record
- Names and details of co-investors, and of individuals acting for other investors participating in a funding round
- Names and details of referees, and personal data contained in references or reference calls obtained as part of due diligence
- Ownership, shareholding and control information relating to identifiable individuals, including directors, beneficial owners and controlling parties
- Personal data contained in due diligence outputs, including identity, financial, integrity and background check results relating to identifiable individuals
- Assessment records, investment committee materials and correspondence referencing named individuals generated during sourcing, diligence and portfolio management

- Any personal data incidentally included in pitch materials, data room documents, board materials or free-text correspondence. This may occasionally include special category data (as defined in Article 9 UK GDPR) where such information is incidentally present in references, screening outputs or unstructured materials.

We will process the following criminal offence data:

- Risk ratings, and underlying screening reports, relating to criminal convictions and offences or alleged unlawful conduct (including sanctions, watchlist, fraud or adverse-media matches) concerning directors, beneficial owners and other identifiable individuals connected to a company or funding round.

Where personal data has not been obtained from the data subject, it may have been obtained from the company itself (which provides personal data about its founders, employees, advisers and named partners), from co-investors and other investors in a funding round, from referees who provide references, from due diligence providers, from public registers (including Companies House), from sanctions and screening databases, from publicly available media sources, and from other public sector bodies where necessary.

2. Purpose

The purpose(s) for which we are processing your personal data is:

- To identify, source, assess and select companies for investment
- To conduct due diligence on companies, their founders, directors, beneficial owners and co-investors, including identity, financial, integrity, sanctions, anti-money laundering (AML), know-your-customer (KYC) and "trusted capital" checks
- To make and execute investment and co-investment decisions
- To manage, monitor and administer the investment portfolio, including valuations, follow-on investment decisions and exit decisions
- To exercise shareholder and investor rights, including information rights and, where secured, board observer rights
- To communicate with companies, founders, co-investors and other stakeholders
- To conduct fraud prevention, financial crime prevention and other integrity assurance checks
- To identify and manage conflicts of interest
- To carry out audit, assurance, reporting and compliance activities associated with the use of public funds

- To enable monitoring and evaluation of the programme to understand its impact and inform adjustments

3. Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data under Article 6 of the UK GDPR is

1(e) Public task: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. The public task is to identify, assess, make and manage equity investments in strategically significant AI companies, in order to catalyse the growth and UK-anchoring of those companies. By investing in and supporting strategically significant AI firms, the Sovereign AI Fund advances its mission to defend the UK's economic security and strategic resilience, and to anchor and grow strategically significant AI companies in the UK, delivering public benefit.

Special category data

In limited circumstances, we may process special category personal data where such information is contained in references, due diligence materials, correspondence or other documentation relevant to an investment assessment. Where this occurs, processing will be carried out under Article 9(2)(g) UK GDPR (substantial public interest) together with the relevant condition in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, including paragraph 6 (statutory and government purposes) where applicable.

Criminal offence data

We process personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences, and allegations of unlawful conduct, as described in this notice. This processing is undertaken for the purposes of conducting investment due diligence, managing public funds, undertaking trusted capital assessments, preventing fraud and financial crime, and protecting the integrity of investment decisions.

Criminal offence data is processed for the following conditions under Part 1,2 and 3 of Schedule 1 of the DPA 2018: statutory government purposes (paragraph 6), preventing fraud (paragraph 14), regulatory requirements relating to unlawful acts and dishonesty (paragraph 12), and processing for legal claims (paragraph 33). An Appropriate Policy Document is maintained in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

4. Recipients

Beyond Sovereign AI and wider BIST/DSIT personnel, your personal data may be shared by us with:

- British Technology Investments Ltd (BTI), the BIST-owned company through which the Fund's investments are held and certain investment decisions are approved

- Our appointed service provider (currently British Business Bank Financial Services Limited (BBFSL))
- The British Business Bank (BBB), where we co-invest alongside it or coordinate on investments
- External legal, financial and other professional advisers engaged in connection with investment transactions and due diligence
- Our appointed third-party evaluation partners to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the programme
- Other public bodies where information sharing is necessary to assess suitability, manage public funds, investigate suspected fraud, or comply with legal obligations

We may share your data if we are required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

As part of our IT infrastructure, your personal data will be processed on systems provided by our data processors, including Microsoft and Amazon Web Services. We also use other third-party processors to support the sourcing, assessment and management of investments, including customer relationship management systems. This does not mean we actively share your personal data with these entities; rather, they are service providers who process personal data on our behalf and under our instruction. Some of this processing may take place outside the UK. Please see the International Transfers section below.

5. Retention

Records relating to investments - including investment decisions, rejections, due diligence and portfolio management - are retained for the duration of the investment and for 7 years following exit, disposal or the closure of the relationship. Where an application does not proceed to investment, records are retained for 7 years from the date of the decision.

Records relating to fraud, financial crime or other serious integrity matters are retained for 15 years.

.

6. International Transfers

Your personal data will be processed in the UK and European Economic Area (EEA) with the needed safeguards in place, notably the UK Adequacy Regulations.

7. Your Rights

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data.

To exercise your rights please contact the Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.

8. Contact Details

The data controller for your personal data is the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST). During Sovereign AI's transition phase to BIST, you can contact the DSIT Data Protection Officer at:

DSIT Data Protection Officer
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Email: dataprotection@dsit.gov.uk

New BIST contact details will be provided in due course.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your personal data, please write to the department's Data Protection Officer in the first instance using the contact details above.

9. Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an UK independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

10. Updates to this notice

If this privacy notice changes in any way, we will place an updated version on this page. Regularly reviewing this page ensures you are always aware of what information we collect, how we use it, and under what circumstances we will share it with other parties. The 'last updated' date at the bottom of this page will also change.

If these changes affect how your personal data is processed, we will take reasonable steps to let you know.

Last updated: 25.08.26

