



Meltham Town Council

Security Incident Policy

What is a breach?

A personal data breach means a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. This includes breaches that are the result of both accidental and deliberate causes. It also means that a breach is more than just about losing personal data.

Policy

This policy specifies the actions with respect to breaches of personal data.

Personal data breaches can include:

- access by an unauthorised third party.
- deliberate or accidental action (or inaction) by a controller or processor.
- sending personal data to an incorrect recipient.
- computing devices containing personal data being lost or stolen.
- alteration of personal data without permission; and loss of availability of personal data

Dealing with an incident

On discovery of an incident either as a result of automatic notification, accidental discovery, manual record checking or any other means, all personnel shall -:

1. Report the incident to the reporting points: - The Town Clerk -:
 - Email: townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk marked for the attention of the Town Clerk.
2. The email report should be followed by a telephone call to the Town Clerk.
3. Should the Town Clerk not be available the Town Mayor of the Council should be informed.

Reporting Point Responsibilities

All incidents must be recorded. The reporting point shall perform the following actions.

- Note the time, date and nature of incident together with a description and as much detail as appropriate on an Incident Response Form
- Ensure the protection of any evidence and that a documented chain of evidence is

maintained.

- Liaise with relevant authorities, individuals and the media where appropriate.
- Keep a note of all communications together with their date, time, who has been communicated with, and what the content and nature of communication was on the Incident Response Form

Incident Response Plan

1. Assess the risk to individuals as a result of a breach: The following must be considered:

- a. the categories and approximate number of individuals concerned, and
- b. the categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned and
- c. the likely consequences of the personal data breach, in particular consider if the impact results in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- d. To help assess the risks refer to the Information Commissioner Office (ICO) website:
 - i. [Report a breach | ICO](#)
 - ii. [UK GDPR data breach reporting \(DPA 2018\) | ICO](#)

2. If the incident is deemed to be a **notifiable incident** the following actions must be taken:

- a. Within 72 hours of becoming aware of the incident (even if not aware of all the details yet):
- b. Call ICO: 0303 123 1113 - and provide the following information: what has happened; when and how the council found out about the breach; the people (how many) that have been or may be affected by the breach; what the council are doing as a result of the breach as part of efforts to contain this; and who else has been told
- c. For reporting a breach outside normal working hours use the ICO Reporting Form: [Report a personal data breach - online form | ICO](#)

3. If the incident is deemed to result in a high risk to the right and freedoms of individuals:

- a. Within 48 hours the affected individuals must be informed by telephone, letter or email about the incident as there may be a need for them to take actions to mitigate the immediate risk of damage to them.
- b. The individuals must be told in clear and plain language:
 - i. the nature of the personal data breach and.
 - ii. A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach; and
 - iii. A description of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken, to deal with the personal data breach and including, where appropriate, of the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects, and
 - iv. The name and contact details of the Town Clerk and from where more information can be obtained.

4. If the incident is **not deemed to be notifiable**:

- a. Update the Incident Response Form along with the outcome of the risk assessment.
- b. Include the steps and evidence used to identify and classify the risk. Include reasons why the incident is not deemed to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

5. Incident Review:

The Town Clerk will ensure that the incident is reviewed at the next appropriate Council meeting.

- a. The Council will consider whether discussion of the incident warrants exclusion of the press and public from the meeting during that discussion.
- b. At that meeting the Council should determine if there are any further actions that need to be assigned or completed as a result of the incident.

- c. The Council may decide to refer further actions to a committee, working group or external parties.
- d. It should be noted that this final stage of the incident may require a review of this policy document.

Considered at FC: 20.5.24

Date Adopted: May 2024 - (24/51-10.2)

Reviewed by The Clerk: 11.2.26 / Next Review Date: February 2028

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed or at any time the Council deems necessary or at least by May 2028.