

Article on data handling - consent and directories

“Everyone has to have my specific consent to utilise my personal data”

From Lion/Lioness Robyn Banks MD Data Protection Officer

This is a point I am continually being told by Lions (and non-Lions for that matter!) – you can add to that “my contact information is being used without my consent and that’s a breach of data protection/GDPR”

Well, actually it’s NOT! And this is specifically true if you are a Club Officer/District Officer and/or MD Officer. Let me re-iterate – it is NOT a breach of the legislation – even if your personal email address is being utilised. As a Club Officer (or any other type of Lions officer) part of your role is to be contactable! Therefore, your details will appear on a Club Directory, District Directory and MD Directory. Most Districts and the MD will get this information from MyLCI. Indeed, the MyLCI information is even utilised by LCI Oak Brook for a public area on their main website so that Lions or anyone else can contact a club. This has recently been amended so that only the President’s details are shown and you can “click” to send a contact email.

“So – what you are saying, Robyn, is that I have no control over my personal data!” – NO that is NOT what I’m saying – that would be a breach of the law! When you fill in a Club membership application form you are consenting for your contact details to be processed accordingly. You can control the use of your data by controlling what goes onto MyLCI or into Directories. If you don’t want people using your personal email address, then use a club generic one or create your own Lions email address – this is what I have done! I have an MD one but I also have districtdpo@gmail.com so that I can keep my “paperwork” organised and separate if nothing else.

SO – if you are a Club Officer and you don’t want your personal email address passed onto anyone outside Lions to contact you (but there are “rules” here too so read on!) then create a Lions one, or use a generic one from the Club. If your Club has a website, then email addresses should come with it! – so a good move forward would be to consider having “secretary@ lions.co.uk” or “president@ lions.co.uk”. This would then meant that the history of the records would be kept as the email address would move with the role ...

REMEMBER that - especially as Club Secretary – you have a duty to respect the wishes of all club members too. All Lions have their details on MyLCI and Oak Brook can use this to contact them as well. As Club Secretary I have to go onto MyLCI each month to report membership, so it doesn’t take long if a member wants their details amended. They can of course do it themselves and you can ensure that the Privacy Settings are set to your wishes. Only certain positions at District level and MD level can see the database – I know this to be true because, as MD DPO, I assess who needs access! This is a way of protecting the privacy and rights of all Lions in the MD.

If you do receive emails from someone outside the organisation, always ask where they got your details from..... if the answer is “from the Directory” then you know that a Lion somewhere in the MD has abused their right of access to the Directory – we should not share the entire Directory outside the Organisation – even if the intention is good. Actually, by law, if it is a “first contact” email, they should include where they got your details from in the text – you have the “right” to know! You can also ask them to not use your details anymore – “cease and desist”! If they don’t or won’t tell you where they got the information from, then I can help! I do a good line in “cease and desist”! – I have had many years of practice in my business – you are not “bothering” me at all – just get in touch! AS an aside, also let me know if you think there has been a breach and I can assess that too.

Another question is that a Club **MUST** get consent every year to hold and process the data of its members - NO! The club holds the data from the Lion to process membership and continual request (even annually!) would be seen by the authorities as “forced” and “excessive” - both of which are illegal! You have the right at any time to ask for/amend how and what data on you is held.

Of course, none of the above means that you can do what you want with other people’s data! Treat it with respect! Treat it all how you would expect someone to treat your data. Before you share it with another organisation - whatever the good intentions – just stop and think! Perhaps it would be better to give the Lion the details of the contact in the other organisation to contact them - this will keep the respect of the data of all Lions.

A longer (!) Article on data handling will issue shortly from MD. There is a Zoom training presentation too – which can be delivered to the District/ Zones or club if you want me to!