DATA PROTECTION

Does the Victorian Protective Data Security Framework apply to your organisation?
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Contents

Document Details........................................................................................................................................3

Introduction..................................................................................................................................................6

1. Applicability overview .........................................................................................................................7
   1.1. Visual summary ...................................................................................................................................7

2. Workflow: Is your body a ‘public entity’? ............................................................................................8
   2.1. Using the workflow ..........................................................................................................................8
   2.2. Does your body have multiple roles? ...............................................................................................8

3. Advising OVIC of your organisations status .....................................................................................13
   3.1. What to do if your organisation is assessed as exempt .................................................................13
   3.2. What to do if your organisation is traditionally exempt, but assessed as having
        obligations under Part 4 of the PDP Act ...........................................................................................13

4. Overview of applicability and exemptions .........................................................................................14
   4.1. Applies ..............................................................................................................................................14
   4.2. Does not apply ................................................................................................................................14
Introduction

The information provided in this pack summarises which Victorian public sector organisations are subject to the Victorian Protective Data Security Framework (VPDSF) and accompanying obligations under Part 4 of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) (PDP Act). It also provides a summary of which organisations are exempt from the VPDSF and accompanying obligations under Part 4 of the PDP Act.

If you find that your organisation is exempt, it may still apply the Victorian Protective Data Security Standards (VPDSS) to meet other legal, regulatory and administrative data protection obligations. In these cases, the OVIC reporting requirements of the VPDSF would not apply, as the standards are being applied voluntarily by the organisation.

OVIC requests that you advise our office of your organisations status if you have assessed that you are exempt or wish to opt in to the VPDSF.
1. Applicability overview

1.1. Visual summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victorian bodies’ applicability or exemption to Part 4 of the PDP Act</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 4 of the PDP Act applies to...</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Departments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special bodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Victorian Public Service Commissioner (VPSC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public entities <img src="https://example.com" alt="2" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 4 of the PDP Act does NOT apply to...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court Services Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribunals (such as VCAT) and judicial or quasi-judicial offices (such as the Mental Health Tribunal) to the extent of their judicial and quasi-judicial functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Commissions, Boards of Inquiries, Formal Reviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parliamentary Committees</td>
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<td>Councils <img src="https://example.com" alt="2" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-jurisdictional bodies, or appointed persons from other jurisdictions i.e. a joint Taskforce, or bodies in Victoria that have an interstate appointed director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public hospitals, public health services or multi-purpose services</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Judicial Commissioner of Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Office of Public Prosecutions or the Director’s Committee (within the meaning of the Public Prosecutions Act (1994))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Governor in Council may declare bodies exempt that are otherwise considered to fall under the definition of ‘public entity’</td>
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</table>

**Implementing the VPDSS may assist organisations in meeting other data protection and privacy obligations such as:**

- Information Privacy Principles (IPPs)
- Information sharing agreements, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), and contracts
- Health Privacy Principles (HPPs)
- Other legal, regulatory and administrative obligations relevant to your organisation

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1 For a full overview of applicability and exemptions, refer to Section 4 of this information pack.
2. Workflow: Is your body a ‘public entity’?

2.1. Using the workflow

The following workflow is designed to give guidance as to whether your body is a public entity, or has a public entity operating within it. It is designed with the applicability of Part 4 of the PDP Act in mind.

Public entities can include organisations that provide services or functions like water and land management, healthcare and emergency services. It can also extend to include entities like advisory bodies, Ministerial advisory committees, land management committees, cemetery trusts, school or Tertiary and Further Education (TAFE) institutes, school councils, Victorian Crown Land Reserve Committees, the Board of Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES) and the Board of the Centre for Adult Education.

This workflow does not cover other government bodies that are subject to the PDP Act, such as departments and special bodies.

If you remain unsure about the status of your body after completing the workflow, it is suggested that you seek advice from your portfolio department and/or independent legal advice. This workflow does not constitute legal advice and should not be used as a substitute for applying the provisions of the PDP Act, or any other legal requirement, to individual cases.

2.2. Does your body have multiple roles?

The following workflow must be conducted separately for each role that your body undertakes, as each role may have different obligations for your body under the PDP Act.

For example, a Committee of Management (CoM) for Crown Land Reserves is deemed to be a ‘public entity’, and is required to fulfil all associated obligations for that of a ‘public entity’, including Part 4 of the PDP Act. This is still the case even when the ‘public entity’ is nested in a body that is otherwise exempt. A good example of this may be a municipal council that has a CoM nested in it.

A visual depiction of these arrangements is contained below:
Workflow: Is your body a 'public entity'?

Is your body an 'exempt body' under s 4 of the Public Administration Act 2004 (Vic)?

STAGE 1 Exempt bodies

Your body is not a public entity, and is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act.
Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

Is your body an 'exempt body' under s 4 of the Public Administration Act 2004 (Vic)?

Has your body been declared exempt by the Governor in Council?

Your body is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act. If the exemption was made by the Governor in Council under the PDP Act, you may still be a public entity, despite not having obligations under the PDP Act.
Please write to OVIC to advise of the exemption, providing this information as reason for your exemption.
Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

Your body is not a public entity, and is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act.
Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

The following bodies are exempt from the definition of 'public entity' under s 4 of the Public Administration Act 2004 (Vic):
- Parliamentary Committees
- Councils
- Courts
- Court Services Victoria
- The Judicial Commission of Victoria
- The Office of Public Prosecutions or the Director’s Committee
- Universities
- Multi-jurisdictional government bodies, or appointed persons from other jurisdictions i.e. a joint taskforce, or bodies in Victoria that have an interstate appointed director

Exemptions by the Governor in Council are declared in the government gazette. As of 5th February 2018, no exemptions have been made for s 4 Public Administration Act or for Part 4 of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).

Continues to next stage
Is your body a subsidiary of a public entity?

Your body is a public entity and is subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act.

Obtain advice from your parent body to confirm if it is a public entity.

Is your body established by a Victorian Act, the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), or otherwise created by the Victorian Government?

Your body is not a public entity, and is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act. Please write to OVIC to advise of the exemption, providing this information as reason for your exemption. Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

Is your body wholly owned by the State of Victoria?

Continues to next stage

Does your body exercise a public function?

Your body is not a public entity, and is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act. Please write to OVIC to advise of the exemption, providing this information as reason for your exemption. Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

A subsidiary is a body that is accountable to another body for its governance and operations. A subsidiary of a public entity is a public entity regardless of how it is constituted or the functions that it undertakes.

To be a public entity, your body will have been established by Victorian government:

- by or under a Victorian Act of Parliament,
- by order of the Governor in Council,
- by decision of Cabinet or a Minister

Additionally, bodies constituted under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic), the State Owned Enterprises Act 1992 (Vic), or other enabling Victorian legislation are also included.

There is no conclusive definition of ‘public function’, but the term usually refers to those functions that are reserved for government, and which cannot be performed by an ordinary private individual or organisation. Things like enacting legislation, enforcing laws or administering a mandatory licensing and registration scheme are likely to be considered public functions because they involve the exercise of governmental powers. By contrast, activities that do not require special powers, such as conducting research or providing goods and services are less likely to be considered public functions. If you are not sure whether your organisation performs any public functions, you should seek legal advice.
Is your body a body corporate?

NO

Is your body government controlled?

NO

Your body is not a public entity, and is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act. Please write to OVIC to advise of the exemption, providing this information as reason for your exemption.

Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

YES

Is your body’s sole function to provide advice and/or reports?

NO

Your body is a public entity and is subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act.

YES

Does your body have written terms of reference?

NO

Your body is not a public entity, and on that basis, is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act. Please write to OVIC to advise of the exemption, providing this information as reason for your exemption.

Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

YES

Advisory and reporting bodies are public entities when they:

- solely provide advice or reports, and
- have written terms of reference, and
- are required to provide the advice to a Minister or Government, and
- are declared to be a public entity by an Act, subordinate instrument, establishing document, or by an Order of the Governor in Council.

Your body is ‘government controlled’ if it vests the rights to appoint ¼ of the directors to the Governor in Council or the Minister, or the rights could have been vested when established by an Order made by the Minister or the Governor in Council.
STAGE 3 Cont.

Is your body required to provide the advice to a Minister or Government?

Yes

Is your body declared to be a public entity by an Act, subordinate instrument, establishing document, or by order of the Governor in Council?

Yes

Your body is a public entity and is subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act.

If your body has multiple roles, please conduct the analysis again for each additional role.

Yes

NO

Your body is not a public entity, and on that basis, is not subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act.

Please write to OVIC to advise of the exemption, providing this information as reason for your exemption.

Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

NO

If you believe that your body is exempt, please write to OVIC to advise us of your exemption, providing this information as reason for your exemption.

Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

Unsure about ‘public function’ in Stage 2?

Your body may, or may not be a public entity. Review Stage 2 of this workflow assessment (the ‘public entity’ section).

If you remain unsure about the status of your body after completing the workflow, it is suggested that you seek advice from your portfolio department and/or independent legal advice.

If you believe that your body is exempt, please write to OVIC to advise of your exemption citing ‘public function’ as reason for your exemption.

Note: Your body may still be subject to other federal and state privacy and data protection regulations.

Your body may be subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act if you have not yet analysed whether your body is a public sector agency, special body or body declared by the Governor in Council under s 84 of the PDP Act.
3. Advising OVIC of your organisations status

Once you have assessed whether your organisation is applicable or exempt, you should advise OVIC of its status.

3.1. What to do if your organisation is assessed as exempt

The following process should be followed by organisations who believe they may be exempt from obligations under Part 4 of the PDP Act:

1. Consider obtaining independent legal advice to assist the determination of whether or not your organisation has legislative obligations

2. Write to OVIC to advise of exemption. Please include a statement about the nature of your organisation and provide us with the reasons why you believe that your organisation might be exempt. Send a letter to:

   Data Protection Team  
   Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner  
   PO Box 24274  
   Melbourne Victoria 3001

or by email to: security@ovic.vic.gov.au

3.2. What to do if your organisation is 'notionally' exempt, but assessed as having obligations under Part 4 of the PDP Act

The following process should be followed by exempt organisations (such as local councils or health service providers) who believe they may have obligations under Part 4 of the PDP Act:

1. Consider obtaining independent legal advice to assist the determination of whether or not your organisation has legislative obligations

2. Write to OVIC to advise of obligations. Send a letter to:

   Data Protection Team  
   Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner  
   PO Box 24274  
   Melbourne Victoria 3001

or by email to: security@ovic.vic.gov.au

As a result of this notification, OVIC will provide your organisation with more resources and access to an online portal. OVIC will also provide assistance to your organisation in meeting its reporting obligations.
4. Overview of applicability and exemptions

The following section sets out the relevant provisions of the PDP Act and the PA Act, describing in detail which organisations are expected to apply the VPDSF and which are exempt.2

4.1. Applies

- Departments
- Administrative Office
- The Victorian Public Service Commissioner (VPSC)
- Special bodies defined by s6 of the Public Administration Act (2004). This includes offices like OVIC, quasi-judicial bodies such as the Mental Health Tribunal (MHT), and tribunals such as the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), to the extent of their administrative functions; i.e. human resources and payroll
- Bodies that are declared by the Governor in Council via s 84(3) to be subject to Part 4 of the PDP Act
- Public entities defined by s 5 of the PA Act

N.B. Victoria Police and Crime Statistics Agency fall under Part 5 of the PDP Act, however both organisations have formally transitioned to the VPDSF and are bound by Part 4 of the PDP Act obligations.

4.2. Does not apply

There are multiple avenues through which an organisation can be exempted from obligations in the PDP Act, ranging from broad to specific exemptions in the PDP Act, to exemptions of ‘public entities’ in the PA Act.

Exempted bodies3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Consider the following legislative exemptions</th>
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| Tribunals (such as VCAT), judicial or quasi-judicial offices such as the Mental Health tribunal (MHT) | - General s 10, s 10A, s 11 exemptions in the PDP Act, to the extent of their judicial and quasi-judicial functions  
- (N.B. other administrative functions are subject to the PDP Act such as payroll, and other non-judicial related functions) |

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2 A brief visual summary is included in Section 1.1 of this information pack, which offers a short form of the material presented in this section.

3 Despite being noted as an exempt entity, your organisation may still choose to adopt the VPDSF to help meet other data protection and privacy obligations it may have.
<table>
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<th>Entity</th>
<th>Consider the following legislative exemptions</th>
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<td>Courts</td>
<td>• s 4 exemption in the PA Act - Bodies that are not considered ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• General s 10, s 10A, s 11 exemptions in the PDP Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Services Victoria</td>
<td>• s 4 exemption in the PA Act - Bodies that are not considered ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentary Committees (established under the Parliamentary Committees Act (2003)); i.e. the Joint Investigatory Committee, the House Committee, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly</td>
<td>• s 10, s10A and s 11 exemption in the PDP Act</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• s 4 exemption in the PA Act - Bodies that are not considered ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-jurisdictional government bodies, or appointed persons from other jurisdictions; i.e. a Joint Taskforce, or bodies in Victoria that have an interstate appointed director</td>
<td>• Specific exemption from Part 4 data protection obligations via a s 84(2) of the PDP Act</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• s 4 exemption in the PA Act - Bodies that are not considered ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Services (within the meaning of the Ambulance Services Act (1986))</td>
<td>• Specific exemptions from Part 4 data protection obligations via a s 84(2) of the PDP Act that are ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public hospital, public health service or multi-purpose service within the meaning of the Health Services Act (1988)</td>
<td>• Specific exemption from Part 4 data protection obligations via a s 84(2) of the PDP Act that are ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Judicial Commission of Victoria (established under the Constitution Act, or as authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel)</td>
<td>• s 4 exemption in the PA Act - Bodies that are not considered ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Office of the Public Prosecutions or the Director’s Committee (within the meaning of the Public Prosecutions Act (1994))</td>
<td>• s 4 exemption in the PA Act - Bodies that are not considered ‘public entities’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entity</td>
<td>Consider the following legislative exemptions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Universities (within the meaning of the Education Training and Reform Act (2006)) | • Specific exemption from Part 4 data protection obligations via a s 84(2) of the PDP Act  
• s 4 exemption in the PA Act - Bodies that are not considered ‘public entities’ |