

# Virtual Data Protection Officer

Once the new General Data Protection Regulation comes into effect in May 2018, it will become a legal requirement for certain businesses to appoint a Data Protection Officer, while others will do so voluntarily. The DPO will be responsible for monitoring and managing on-going compliance and will report at the highest level of the organisation.

**The DPO will play a vital role in preserving the integrity of the business.**

As defined in the GDPR Article 39, DPO duties include managing internal data protection activities, advising on data protection impact assessments, training staff and conducting internal audits; the Officer will be the first point of contact for supervisory authorities and will be the lynchpin for communications in the case of a breach. They will need to keep abreast of changes in legal requirements and standards, as well as keeping up-to-date with case law outcomes and with the latest trends and activities in the industry and in data management.

At the very least, the DPO is going to be largely responsible for minimising the risk of data breaches, potential fines and reputational damage for the company, while for many organisations the Officer will play a vital role

in preserving the integrity of the business, as well as taking a strong advisory role in future strategy decisions.

While you might consider allocating DPO duties to an existing staff member or creating an additional in-house post, you could alternatively choose to work with an external advisor. By working with a Risk Evolves “virtual DPO” you **simultaneously fulfill your legal requirements and ensure that you obtain the highest possible level of up-to-the-minute expertise.**

Our virtual DPOs will all be certified in the role and all have many years experience operating at Board level. By choosing to have one of them on your team, you can stay focused on your business, confident in the knowledge that an expert is on-hand who will not only keep you apprised of your legal responsibilities but also use their industry-wide view to **think beyond simple compliance**, empowering you to seize opportunities as they arise.