

Real Time Sudden Deaths Surveillance System Privacy Notice.

Who we are

The Avon Real Time Sudden Deaths Surveillance System provides data and intelligence on sudden and unexpected deaths specifically from suspected suicides and substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) across the Avon region. The system enables the identification of trends and patterns leading to better proactive prevention. It also provides an opportunity to provide support for next of kin and families of those who died by suspected suicide.

Bristol City Council is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018 and other regulations including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), which means it determines what your personal data is used for and why it is collected.

The purpose of this privacy notice is to tell you about how we collect and use personal data in connection with our service. We may update this privacy notice from time to time. When we do this, we will communicate any changes to you and publish the revised privacy notice on our website.

Our main address is City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR and our contact details can be found on [Bristol City Website](#)

For the Avon wide Real Time Sudden Deaths Surveillance system (RTSS) BCC is a joint data controller with:

- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- North Somerset Council
- South Gloucestershire Council

What data we need to collect and use?

The majority of the information being collected and recorded as part of the RTSS will relate to deceased individuals, with the exception of the following, which relates to living individuals:

Health and care professionals and emergency service professionals:

- Name
- ID number
- Work telephone number
- Work email address

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- Name and address of employer

Next of Kin (where consent to refer to Besides, suicide bereavement service obtained via police sudden death form – for suspected suicides):

- Name
- Relationship to deceased.
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Home address

The following may also be shared by professionals, service providers and agencies, as part of the RTSS system, within narratives on open text fields on the QES system:

- Family and social circumstances and history - there may be details about deceased circumstances which may include living family members.
- Lifestyle and behavioural details - there may be details about deceased circumstances which may include living family members.
- Information relating to the individual's physical or mental health or condition - there may be details about deceased circumstances which may include living family members.

We get most of this information from you and from what we learn about you through your use of our services, but we may also get some information about you from the Police, health providers, and other local authorities.

How do we use your personal information?

We use this information for one or more of the following reasons:

- Monitor deaths by suicide, substance misuse and homelessness.
- Develop joint initiatives to prevent deaths.
- Provide support to people bereaved by suspected suicide.

What is the legal basis for our use of your personal information?

The information below shows the legal bases we are relying on to use your personal information.

You can see a list of the full legal bases we may rely on by looking at our [corporate privacy notice](#)

Personal information

Our legal basis for using your personal information are:

- To exercise our public health tasks in the public interest as per the [Health and Social Care Act 2012, Part 1, section 30 and 31](#)
- To use intelligence to prevent unexpected and sudden deaths by suspected suicide and drug/alcohol related deaths.
- To enable the provision of support to next of kin and families of those who died by suspected suicide.

Special category (sensitive) personal information

Our additional legal bases for using your special category information are for reasons of substantial public interest, with a basis in law identified by the Data Protection Act 2018, Schedule 1, Part 2, Paragraph 6: Statutory etc *and government purposes*.

Who else might we share your personal information with?

Sometimes we may need to share your information, but we will only do so where we have a valid legal basis to share data. We will only share the minimum information for each circumstance. We may share some of your personal information with one or more of the following:

Where consent has been obtained from next of kin, the contact details provided will be shared with the [Beside](#) bereavement service (suspected suicide). This consent is obtained by Avon & Somerset Police when they attend the scene of a sudden death. If next of kin do not wish to be contacted by the Beside service, then no next of kin contact details will be shared.

We may also use data processors to support our activities, for example by providing systems we need or delivering services on our behalf. These processors are:

The Data Processor is "Quality Education Solutions Ltd t/a [QES](#)". Their privacy notice can be found [here](#). The QES Suicide Surveillance system, enables multi-agency collaboration to understand, derive lessons from, and take action to reduce suicides. The range of information inputted into the system by multi-agency partners at a local level (i.e., police, ambulance, mental health services) facilitates the tying together of a series of small details to provide one comprehensive view of circumstances surrounding a suspected or attempted suicide.

Will my personal data be sent outside the UK?

No personal information is routinely sent or held outside the UK. Should the transfer of personal information outside the UK become necessary, it will only take place if permitted by law, and then only where there are appropriate safeguards in place to protect the data.

How long we will keep your personal information?

We will hold this information for as long as it is needed, or if we are required to do so by law. In practice this means that your personal information may be retained for the relevant period listed below:

- A maximum of 2 years for Next of Kin (NoK) data

After this, your personal information will be archived.

Your rights as a data subject

The law gives you a number of rights to control what and how personal information is used by us, including the right to access a copy of your personal information and withdraw your consent when we rely on your permission to use your personal data.

Full details about your rights can be found in our [main privacy notice](#). If you are unable to access our digital Privacy Notice, please [contact Citizens Services](#) whom will be able to send a hard copy.

To update or correct your information if it is inaccurate please [contact Citizens Services](#).

To access a copy of your personal information, more details and how to make a request can be found on the [data protection subject access requests page on the council website](#).

To request a copy of the Joint Controller Agreement which exists for this processing activity, you can contact: suddendeaths@bristol.gov.uk

You can exercise any of these rights, ask questions about how we use your personal data or complain by contacting us at data.protection@bristol.gov.uk or by writing to our data protection officer at:

Data Protection Officer
Information Governance
Bristol City Council
City Hall
PO Box 3399
Bristol
BS1 9NE



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If you do not live within the boundaries of Bristol City Council you can find full privacy notice and contact information for the Data Protection Officer of your local authority here:

[Privacy notices - Corporate Services | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

[General privacy notice | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

[Public Health Privacy Notice | Bath and North East Somerset Council \(bathnes.gov.uk\)](#)

If you think we have dealt with your information inappropriately or unlawfully, you have the right to complain to the ICO at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Next annual review date: July 2026

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