



The act creates criminal offences for some breaches of the provisions of the act and penalties include fines and/or imprisonment of up to ten years.

Processing has an extremely wide definition, including automatic or manual collection, receipt, recording, organisation, collation, storage,

updating or modification, retrieval, alteration, consultation or use, dissemination, merging, linking, as well as restriction, degradation, erasure or destruction of information.

Personal information has an even wider definition and includes information relating to the race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental health, wellbeing, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, birth, education, the medical, financial, criminal or employment history, identifying number, symbol, email address, physical address, telephone number, location information, online identifier or other particular assignment, biometric information, personal opinions, views, or preferences, and private correspondence of a person, as well as the views or opinions of another individual about the person.

**This article is a very brief summary of the 115 sections of the act. Practitioners should, once the act has come into force, seek professional help when in doubt about their rights and duties.**