



Privacy Policy

Summary

CiviQ's Online Consultation Portal is a service provided to enable participation in public engagements. The portal has features to enable the publication of consultations to which submissions, survey responses, ballot responses can be made. You can also receive messages about consultations, read and interact with published submissions.

CiviQ fully respects the right to privacy. Any information, which is submitted via the OpenConsult platform will be treated with the highest possible standards of security and confidentiality, strictly in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Data Protection Act (Ireland) 2018 and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, Canada. This privacy statement sets out how CiviQ processes and secures personal data.

CiviQ reserves the right to amend the scope of the privacy statement at any time which may include or exclude other sites or platforms.

How we collect your information

The Online Consultation Platform, known as the "platform", and the data processor, CiviQ, collects personal information. This information is used to support the purpose of the consultation portal which includes facilitating responses to community engagements and communicating with respondents. Data is collected in the following ways:

- Directly from your written input to the platform via the registration form, submission forms, survey forms and comment boxes;
- Automatically through the platform's technologies including tracking online, such as by web cookies (which are small text files created by websites that are stored on your computer)

The information you provide

Some or all the following information may be collected from users of the platform:

- Contact details, including your name, email address, postal address, website and telephone number;
- Organisational affiliation if you are registering an organisation or a company;
- Gender and age (optional);
- Usernames and passwords;
- Website security roles to allow you to securely perform some limited functions within the CiviQ platform;
- Tracking codes, such as cookies;
- Submissions, comments, emails, feedback about the platform, indicators of support to other users, and other content you provide via the platform;

- Consent to receive emails from subscriptions, notifications and messages including date and time of consent;
- Anonymised Internet Protocol (IP) addresses used to connect your computer to the Internet;
- Account creation and last log-in date and time;
- Logging acceptance of the Privacy Policy and other Terms and Conditions;
- Audit of moderation tasks on your submission
- Other personal data that you choose to collect through survey or application forms.

Some types of communications from the platform require consent. These include messages and notifications. A user of the OpenConsult platform may choose to receive notifications about consultations; system messages and notifications or withdraw consent to the same.

What we need and why we need it

We may use information we hold about you in the following ways:

- **Information you give us.**

We will use this information:

1. to carry out our obligations to process your responses to engagements;
2. to provide you with information;
3. to notify you of confirmation that we have received your response to a consultation;
4. to notify you about changes to any of our services;
5. to ensure that content from the platform is presented in the most effective manner for you and for your computer;

- **Information collected about you by the platform.**

This information is used:

1. to administer the platform and for internal operations, including troubleshooting and testing.
2. to improve the platform to ensure that content is presented in the most effective manner for you and for your computer or mobile device;
3. to keep the platform safe and secure; and
4. to help improve the reach and inclusiveness of public consultations using third party services such as Matomo.

Our legal basis for using your information

Where CiviQ is the data controller, the legal basis for processing personal data is consent. Where CiviQ acts as processor of a customer's data, the legal basis is that of the customer.

How long your data is held

CiviQ as data controller retains your data until such time as the customer's contract is expired or if you are using the platform to engage in a consultation/voting exercise - until that process is complete and your data is no longer required. Where CiviQ is acting as a data processor for a customer, CiviQ holds data as long as required by the customer's data retention policies.

Storage of your information, international data transfers and security

You have set a password which enables you to access certain parts of our platform, you are responsible for keeping this password confidential. We ask you not to share your password with anyone.

The transmission of information via the Internet is not completely secure. Although we will do our best to protect your personal data, we cannot guarantee the security of your data transmitted to our platform; any transmission is at your own risk. Once we have received your information, we will use strict procedures and security features to prevent unauthorised access.

Disclosure of Your Information

We will not share your information with third parties. Some third parties may occasionally have access to areas of the platform where your data is stored for the purposes of providing the platform service, development, testing and fixing of the platform. In these cases, the third parties will also be bound by data protection agreements.

Automated decision-making

Your personal data is not used for any automated decision-making.

Cookies

For more information on how we use cookies, please see our ***Cookie Policy***.

Your rights

You have certain rights in relation to your personal information that is processed by us. These rights are listed below. These rights are not absolute and apply subject to certain conditions. For example, your rights may include:

- the right to access personal data held by us about you;
- the right to require us to rectify any inaccurate personal data held by us about you;
- in certain circumstances, the right to require us to erase personal data held by us about you;
- in certain circumstances, the right to restrict our processing of personal data held by us about you;
- in certain circumstances, a right to receive personal data which you have provided to us in a structured, commonly used and machine readable format. You may also have the right to require us to transfer this personal data to another organisation where feasible, at your request;

- the right to object to our processing of personal data held by us about you (including for the purposes of sending marketing materials to you); and
- the right to withdraw your consent, where we are relying on it to use your personal data

To exercise these rights please contact info@civiq.eu

Some rights you can exercise directly on the platform via your Personal Account page; My Submissions Page; Manage Consent page; and by checking certain boxes on the consent forms we use when collecting your personal information. These facilitate you keeping your personal details up to date and prevent certain types of processing.

With regard to communications, if at any point you wish to review or change your preferences, you can use the 'opt-out' or 'unsubscribe' mechanism or other means provided within the communications that you receive from us. Note that you may still receive transactional communications regarding your submissions.

Changes to this policy

We reserve the right to modify the Privacy Policy at any stage. If and when we make changes to our privacy policy, we'll share details of these changes on this page. Please continue to check this page to ensure that you are always aware of any changes.

Concerns or complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the processing of your personal data CiviQ's responses to you regarding your personal data, you have the right to lodge a complaint to the Office of Data Protection Commissioner, info@dataprotection.ie.