

EN
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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2026)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)¹ provides that any processing of personal data must be fair, transparent and lawful² and that data protection by design and by default is ensured³. Any natural or legal person acting as a controller or processor of personal data is subject to the GDPR.

Data protection authorities have previously examined the compliance of personal data processing by means of smart glasses with the GDPR and have recommended measures to increase transparency for individuals⁴. The impact of such devices on individuals' privacy and data protection has also been considered by the European Data Protection Board⁵.

In addition, Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 (Digital Services Act, DSA)⁶ requires online platforms to provide users with easily accessible and user-friendly 'notice and action' mechanisms⁷, through which they can report content they consider illegal. Such notices must be processed in a timely manner and if the content is indeed found to be illegal, the online platform must remove said content expeditiously.

Member States' competent authorities and courts have primary responsibility for monitoring the application of the relevant legal provisions and for taking the necessary enforcement measures. The Commission is responsible for enforcing the DSA in relation to designated very large online platforms and very large online search engines.

Supervision and enforcement of the GDPR falls within the competence of the national supervisory authorities and courts, without prejudice to the role of the Commission as guardian of the Treaties.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, pp. 1–88.

² Article 5 GDPR.

³ Article 25 GDPR.

⁴ Statement Irish data protection authority: <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/latest-news/data-protection-commission-statement-concerning-facebook-view-glasses>; Data Protection Commission Annual report 2023 (p. 75) https://www.dataprotection.ie/sites/default/files/uploads/2026-02/DPC_EN_AR_2023_Final_ACO1.pdf#Glasses.

⁵ <https://www.politico.eu/article/new-privacy-frontier-europe-eyes-crackdown-smart-glasses/>.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, pp. 1–102.

⁷ Article 16 DSA.