

Overview of data protection in different regulatory regimes, global best practice and regional updates

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We will cover:

- Overview of Data Protection: Middle East
- Overview of Data Protection: Key Global Issues
- Questions



Overview of Data Protection: Middle East

UAE Onshore

- No federal DP law and no regulator
- Draft law currently circulated
- Currently a mix of sectorial and general laws – penal code, cybercrime law etc
- Consent only mechanism and be aware of defamation laws

UAE Free Zones

- DIFC DP Law – issued 1 July 2020
- ADGM DP Law (update pending)
- Healthcare City DP law

Qatar

- Similar to UAE with onshore and free zone regime
- Free zone law was issued in 2015 and State law was issued in 2016 (albeit implementing regs not yet issued)
- Both laws are based on pre-GDPR EU regime

Saudi Arabia

- No DP law, draft law considered
- Islamic sharia principles

Bahrain

- New DP law effective from 1 August 2019
- Most comprehensive regional law (outside free zones)
- Sectorial laws still govern specific data

Egypt

- Issued 17 July 2020
(minimum 21 months grace period)
- Inspired by GDPR and Bahrain law but with local variations
 - Some criminal sanctions

Overview of Data Protection: Key Global Issues

- The importance of a comprehensive, pro-active data strategy across jurisdictions (and not relying on a reactive approach)
- Taking a risk-based approach to managing conflicting privacy obligations
- Managing evolving data security requirements in a global pandemic
- Increased appetite for enforcement amongst supervisory authorities
- Upward trend in litigious claims and the growing threat of class actions

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