# **CANDIDATE PRIVACY & FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE**

#### **1. ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

As an applicant for a contract of employment or a contract for services with Downs Solicitors LLP, we will need to obtain and process certain information about you. In accordance with our obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR (Legislation) this document acts as Downs Solicitors LLP's 'fair processing notice' and outlines what personal data we will collect about you, what lawful basis/bases we have for processing that personal data as well as what will happen to the personal data following the completion of the application process, whether successful or unsuccessful.

This notice will not form part of any employee's contract of employment, or any contractor's contract for services, and we may amend it at any time.

#### 2. DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

When collecting and processing your personal data we will comply with the data protection principles as outlined in the Legislation, which say that personal data must be:

- (a) Processed fairly, lawfully and in a transparent manner.
- (b) Processed for the specific purposes for which it was collected.
- (c) Adequate, relevant and not excessive for the purpose for which it was collected.
- (d) Accurate and up to date.
- (e) Not kept longer than necessary for the purpose for which it was collected.
- (f) Processed in a secure manner.

"Personal data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. It may include contact details, other personal information, photographs, expressions of opinion about you or indications as to our intentions about you. "Processing" means doing anything with the data, such as accessing, disclosing, destroying or using the data in any way.

#### 3. FAIR AND LAWFUL PROCESSING

To process your personal data, we must have a "lawful basis" for doing so. As an applicant to Downs Solicitors LLP, we will collect personal data relating to you to enable us to evaluate whether to proceed with your application and offer you a contract of employment or a contract for services (as applicable) with Downs Solicitors LLP.

The lawful basis on which we will be relying to process your personal data is "legitimate interest". It is in Downs Solicitors LLP's legitimate interests to obtain limited personal data about you to enable us to assess your application. Given the limited nature of the personal data we will collect and process we see there being no negative impact on your rights in obtaining and processing that data.

As part of the application process, depending on the role for which you have applied/ service you intend to provide (as applicable) we may need to undertake certain searches relating to you, including but not limited to checks of your criminal records via the DBS. These searches may provide us with what is known as 'special category personal data', being personal data that relates to your ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or similar beliefs, trade union membership, health, sex life, criminal proceedings or convictions. Where we need to undertake these searches, we will let you know in advance what searches will be undertaken and the reason for them. The lawful basis for this processing will be 'legal obligation'. If we are undertaking these searches it is because the job you are applying

for/service, you intend to provide (as applicable) requires us to undertake them. You can object to us undertaking these searches, however, if you do object then it is likely that we will be unable to proceed with your application.

## 4. HOW WE ARE LIKELY TO USE YOUR PERSONAL DATA

As outlined above, we will use your personal data to allow us to assess your suitability for the role for which you have applied/service you intend to provide (as applicable).

Should you be successful in your application then the personal data collected will then form part of your employment/contractor (as applicable) records and will be retained in accordance with your contract of employment/contract for services (as applicable) and in accordance with Downs Solicitors LLP's Data Protection Policy, a copy of which is available upon request.

Where we have collected data relating to criminal proceedings and convictions this will only be used to conduct appropriate background searches (such as via the DBS) and will not be retained once the search has been completed.

## **5. DATA RETENTION**

We will not keep your personal data for longer than is necessary for the purposes outlined above. All personal data is retained in accordance with our Data Retention Policy.

## 6. PROCESSING IN LINE WITH YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to:

- (a) Request access to any personal data we hold about you.
- (b) Ask to have inaccurate data held about you amended.

(c) Prevent processing that is likely to cause unwarranted substantial damage or distress to you or anyone else.

(d) Object to any decision that significantly affects you being taken solely by a computer or other automated process.

## 7. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES

Some of your personal data may be provided to third parties where we use their services to comply with our obligations to you as our employee. As an example, we may pass certain of your personal data to a third-party payroll provider we use to pay your salary. Information regarding the identity of these third parties, and the purposes for which we provide them with personal data, can be found in Downs Solicitors LLP's Data Protection Policy, a copy of which is available upon request.

We may also provide your personal data to third parties where we are undertaking background searches against you. We will notify you of the identity of these third parties prior to undertaking the searches.

#### 8. DATA SECURITY

We will ensure that appropriate measures are taken against unlawful or unauthorised processing of personal data, and against the accidental loss of, or damage to, personal data.

We have in place procedures and technologies to maintain the security of all personal data from the point of collection to the point of destruction. We will only transfer personal data to a third party if they agree to comply with those procedures and policies, or if they have in place their own adequate measures that are satisfactory to us.

## 9. SUBJECT ACCESS REQUESTS

Irrespective of whether your application is successful you have the right to know what personal data we hold about you. If you wish to access your personal data, please contact Human Resources at <a href="mailto:p.smith@downslaw.co.uk">p.smith@downslaw.co.uk</a> who will arrange for your personal data to be provided to you in accordance with our legal obligations under the Legislation.

#### **10. BREACHES OF DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES**

If you consider that the data protection principles have not been followed in respect of personal data about yourself or others you should raise the matter with Downs Solicitors LLP's Data Protection Officer at <u>d.seals@downslaw.co.uk</u>. All such concerns will be investigated with the utmost seriousness and professionalism and in accordance with our obligations under the Legislation.

If you believe that we have not handled any complaints relating to your personal data appropriately, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (see <u>www.ico.gov.uk</u>) who will be able to guide you as to your options should you wish to pursue the matter further.