## 2.11.3 Data Protection Risk Assessment ('DPRA')

You are required to complete this section because it has been determined that personal data you are collecting requires a Data Protection Risk Assessment ('DPRA').

The questions in this section will assess the risk to the personal data processed for your research project and determine whether a further, more detailed assessment - a Data Protection Impact Assessment ('DPIA') - will be required.

'Data protection by design' means embedding data privacy features and data privacy-enhancing technologies directly into the design of a project at an early stage. This will help to ensure increased protection for individual data privacy throughout the lifecycle of a research project. A key component of data protection by design is the DPIA.

## What is a DPIA and why may it be required / beneficial for a Research Project?

A DPIA is a process designed to identify risks arising from of the processing of personal data and to manage these risks from as early as possible during the lifecycle of the project. It also demonstrates compliance with the GDPR.

It is a mechanism for assessing the impact of new initiatives or new technologies and implementing measures to minimise or reduce associated risks.

DPIA completion is frequently required as a key component of research project design.

A DPIA is particularly important in instances where the research utilises new technologies or, taking into account the nature, scope, context and type of processing, is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

The DPIA process and outcomes will help to improve the design of a research project and enhance communication about data protection risks with relevant stakeholders such as research partners, third parties and participants.

Please review the <u>Questions</u> and associated <u>Guidance</u> in the section below. If you answer 'Yes' to **two or more** of the <u>Questions</u> then your research project will require a DPIA.

	Question	Help Text	Guidance
2.11.3.4	Does the project involve the processing of personal data relating to participants who belong to a vulnerable segment of the population?	See Guidance - please review carefully before answering.	From a data protection perspective, Individuals can be vulnerable where circumstances may restrict their ability to freely consent or object to the processing of their personal data, or to understand its implications.   • Most obviously, children (anyone under the age of 18) are regarded as vulnerable to the processing of their personal data since they may be less able to understand how their data is being used, anticipate how this might affect them, and protect themselves against any unwanted
			<ul> <li>This can also be true of other vulnerable sections of the population such as elderly people, or those with certain disabilities.</li> <li>Even if the individuals are not part of a group you might automatically consider vulnerable, an imbalance of power in their relationship with you can cause vulnerability for data protection</li> </ul>

purposes if they believe that they will be disadvantaged if the processing doesn't go ahead. ( students, patients, employees etc.) Here is the definition given in the guidance produced at European level: "Vulnerable data subjects may include children (they can be considered as not able to knowingly and thoughtfully oppose or consent to the processing of their data), employees, more vulnerable segments of the population requiring special protection (mentally ill persons, asylum seekers, or the elderly, patients, etc.), and in any case where an imbalance in the relationship between the position of the data subject and the controller can be identified." Please note that just because an individual may be vulnerable, does not mean that they are vulnerable. Other factors such as the nature and context of the research itself need to be assessed in order to make this determination. Does the research involve processing personal data relating to individuals who belong to a vulnerable segment of the population, e.g. children (anyone under the age of 18), people with an intellectual disability, hospital patients, asylum seekers, marginalised sections of society? Processing of this type of data can result in a power imbalance between the study participant and the data controller, meaning the individual may be unable to consent to / oppose / object to the processing of their personal data in advance of or during the course of the research project.