

Privacy Notice

Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme

When processing your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data, Westmorland and Furness Council ('the council') is required under Articles [13](#) and [14](#) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR) to provide you with the information contained in this Privacy Notice.

This notice explains what the council will collect, who it will be shared with, why we need it and how we will use it. The council will continually review and update this Privacy Notice to reflect service changes, feedback from customers and changes in the law.

The council is also required to comply with the data protection principles as laid out in the UKGDPR, to ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- collected for specific, explicit, and legitimate purposes
- adequate, relevant, and limited to the purposes for which it was collected
- accurate and up to date
- kept for no longer than is necessary for the purpose(s) for which it was collected
- secured using appropriate technical or organisational measures

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

From 1 April 2023, Westmorland and Furness Council replaced Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council, Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council, as well as services previously delivered by Cumbria County Council.

Local Government Reorganisation is a complex process and there will be a period of transition to allow for services and support systems to be securely transferred.

During this time existing arrangements for data processing will be maintained until they can be reviewed, and new Privacy Notices issued. Individuals wishing to understand more about how their data is processed should refer to the following Legacy Privacy Notices:

- [Cumbria County Council](#)
- [South Lakeland District Council](#)

Registration

As an organisation that processes large amounts of personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data, referred to in legislation as a data controller, the council is required to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Name: Westmorland and Furness Council
Address: South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4DQ
Registration Number: ZB512761

The council's Registration Certificate can be viewed:

<https://ico.org.uk/ESDWebPages/Entry/ZB512761>

In most cases Westmorland and Furness Council is the data controller, however there may be instances where data is shared with another party as joint Data Controllers, or where the Council is operating as a data processor for another party.

About the Service

Breathing Space is a debt respite scheme. It provides protections for people who are resident in England and Wales who are in problem debt.

The protections include pausing enforcement action and contact from creditors and freezing interest and charges on debts. A standard breathing space is available to anyone in problem debt who accesses debt advice and meets the eligibility criteria and conditions.

It may be very difficult to engage with debt advice while receiving mental health crisis treatment, but problem debt and mental health problems are often linked. The Government has developed an alternative route to access the protections for people receiving mental health crisis treatment, so that they do not have to access debt advice first.

The Information described in this notice will allow us to make a referral to the Breathing Space scheme on your behalf. This will be done only with your consent.

If you lack the capacity to make a decision to enter into the Breathing Space scheme then a Best Interest Decision under S4 of the Mental Capacity Act will be carried out, to determine if it is in your best interests to be referred to the scheme.

Data Controller Arrangements

In most cases Westmorland and Furness Council is the data controller, however there may be instances where data is shared with another party as joint Data Controllers, or where the Council is operating as a data processor for another party.

What is personal data?

UKGDPR Article 4 defines personal data as: any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

What is special category personal data?

UKGDPR Article 9 defines special category personal data as: racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation.

What is criminal/law enforcement data?

The council is a competent authority as described in Schedule 7 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and is permitted to process data for law enforcement purposes that include: the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, including the safeguarding against and the prevention of threats to public security.

What information does the council collect about me?

The **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** is required to process either your personal, special category/sensitive or criminal/law enforcement data to meet legal obligations and make robust recommendations and decisions.

The **Personal Data** requirements are:

- full name
- date of birth
- usual residential address
- nominated point of contact¹ - full name/contact details
- email address
- landline or mobile telephone number

The **Special Category Data** requirements are:

- evidence of mental health crisis treatment
- additional information i.e. finance, debts, creditor details

The **Criminal/Law Enforcement Data** requirements are:

- Not Applicable

How does the council collect data about me?

Your information will be used by an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) to certify that you are receiving mental health crisis treatment. This evidence can be used by a debt advice provider to initiate a mental health crisis breathing space (MHCBS) on your behalf.

¹ The AMHP will also need to identify for you a nominated person, including their email address and telephone number. A nominated person is someone who will have ongoing involvement in your mental health crisis treatment and can be: The AMHP making the referral or another AMHP, a care co-ordinator or a mental health nurse. No-one else's details can be provided involved in your care. If a care co-ordinator has been appointed under the Care Programme Approach, then they should be the nominated point of contact.

In order to process this information, the AMHP will need to:

- Ask for your consent to share personal information
- Certify that you are receiving mental health crisis treatment
- Identify a nominated point of contact
- Submit the evidence form at www.maps.uk/mhcbs

Why does the council collect my personal data?

The **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** collects personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data to enable it to:

- create a secure and comprehensive record of all of the work that we do with and for you
- contact members of your family and support network
- fully understand your needs
- promote your health and wellbeing in partnership where applicable with NHS Bodies
- arrange short/long term care solutions
- liaise with agencies, companies and charities on your behalf
- keep you safe from harm
- request and arrange installation of specialist equipment for you
- assess your financial contribution to your care
- work with you or your representative to create a Care and Support Plan
- details contained in your care records and conversations held
- analyse the service that we are providing

The sharing of information facilitates a joined-up approach with partner agencies, to provide you with the best possible care and support.

Who does the council collect personal data from?

To provide the **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data may be collected from or about the following:

- carers or representatives
- offenders and suspected offenders
- patients
- professional advisers and consultants
- staff, persons contracted to provide a service
- students and pupils

The **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** may receive personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data about you from the third parties mentioned above and other public bodies and organisations. In this case, we will tell you the source of the information unless we are unable to do so by law.

Who does the Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme share personal data with?

This information will be shared with a debt advice agency who in turn will share the information with other organisations, including the breathing space scheme administrator, your creditors and their agents.

This will help the debt advice agency to establish your financial situation and make sure your creditors know you are protected by the scheme. Your creditors will be notified that you are in a mental health crisis breathing space, but they will not be given any specific information about your condition or your treatment. The debt adviser will also be able to contact you later, to offer you help to manage your debts.

We will also comply with requests for specific personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data from other Local Authorities or regulatory and law enforcement bodies where this is necessary and proportionate. Before sharing we will always ensure that our partners have sufficient measures in place to protect your information in the same way we do.

We will never share your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data for marketing purposes, without your express consent.

Legal Basis

Where the **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** identifies the requirement to process personal, special category/sensitive or criminal/law enforcement data, depending on the specific data being shared, it must have at least one of the following:

- for personal data, a legal basis under [UKGDPR Article 6](#)
- for special category/sensitive data, a condition under [UKGDPR Article 9](#)
- for criminal/law enforcement data, a purpose under [Data Protection Act 2018 - Schedule 8](#)

If we are relying on consent to process your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data, you have the right to object at any time by contacting the service or officer the data was provided to.

If **personal data** is being processed the **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** must select at least one legal basis from the list below:

- **UKGDPR Article 6(1) (a) Consent**
- **UKGDPR Article 6(1) (c) Legal Obligation**

Where the **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** is relying on UKGDPR Article 6(1)(c) all Relevant Legislation should be listed below.

If **special category personal data** is being processed the **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** must select at least one condition from the list below:

- **UKGDPR Article 9(2) (a) Explicit consent**

- **UKGDPR Article 9(2) (h) Preventive or occupational medicine**

If **criminal/law enforcement data** is being processed the **Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space Scheme** must select at least one condition from the list below:

- **Not Applicable**

Relevant Legislation

- Mental Health Act 1983

Consent

If you are receiving mental health crisis treatment you may be struggling with problem debt. With your permission, we can complete a form to be sent to a debt adviser on your behalf to ask for a mental health crisis breathing space for you. Having a breathing space should stop you being contacted by someone you owe money to or being charged fees and interest on your debts while you are receiving crisis treatment. The breathing space will last for 30 days after your crisis treatment ends.

A debt adviser will share the information we provide in the form with other organisations, including the breathing space scheme administrator, your creditors, and their agents. This needs to happen for them to establish your financial situation and make sure your creditors know you are protected by the scheme. Your creditors will be notified that you are in a mental health crisis breathing space, but they will not be given any specific information about your condition or your treatment. The debt adviser will also be able to contact you later, to offer you help to manage your debts. If you happy for us to share your details with a debt adviser, you can see whether you are eligible for a mental health crisis breathing space.

If you want to go ahead, but are worried that your creditors may be violent, we can ask the debt adviser not to share your address with your creditors. We will ask you if you want the debt adviser to consider this.

An Approved Mental Health Professional will be asked to certify that you are receiving MH Crisis support before the form is returned and a person who is named as your NOMINATED POINT OF CONTACT will regularly be asked by the Debt Advisor whether you continue to receive MH crisis services.

Automated Decision-Making/Profiling

Automated individual decision-making is a decision made by automated means without any human involvement. Automated individual decision-making does not have to involve profiling, although in some cases it might.

A definition of Profiling can be found in: [UK GDPR - Article 4\(4\)](#) and further information can be found at: [ICO - Automated Decision Making and Profiling](#)

We **do not** use your information for automated decision-making or profiling purposes.

CCTV and Surveillance

We operate surveillance equipment within some of our services for the purpose of either, public and staff safety, or the prevention and detection of crime. CCTV is also installed on the outside of some of our buildings for the purposes of monitoring building security and crime prevention and detection.

Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) who undertake the enforcement of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and parking restrictions, are each equipped with a Body Worn Video Device (BWVD), which has both video and audio recording capability.

Images captured by CCTV will be kept in accordance with the council's [Retention and Disposal Schedule](#). However, on occasions there may be a need to keep images for longer, for example where a crime is being investigated. Images can be requested by writing to: dataprotection@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

We will only disclose images and audio to other authorised bodies who intend to use it for the purposes stated above. Images and audio will not be released to the media for entertainment purposes or placed on the internet for public viewing.

We operate CCTV and disclose in accordance with the codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner and Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner.

Once new systems and processes have been agreed and implemented, they will be made available via the [Westmorland and Furness Council website](#).

National Fraud Initiative/Data Matching

The Council participates in the Cabinet Office's National Fraud Initiative: a data matching exercise to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Minister for the Cabinet Office for matching for each exercise. For further information please see: [National Fraud Initiative: Public Sector Data Requirements](#).

For further information on how your data is processed by the council please see:

[Cumbria County Council](#)

[Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council](#)

[Eden District Council](#)

[South Lakeland District Council](#)

Elected Members

In order for Elected Members to act on your behalf and resolve the issues you have raised they may need to collect some personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data. This could include your name and address, and/or sensitive personal data, which could be concerning your health or ethnic origin.

In some circumstances your explicit consent may be needed to allow for the processing of your data. If this is needed the relevant Elected Member will contact you directly.

Elected Members will:

- only share data with the organisations necessary to deal with your enquiry i.e., different council departments, and to resolve any issues you have raised
- not share your data with third parties, unless it is required for law enforcement purposes to prevent or detect crime, to protect public funds or where required or permitted to share data under other legislation
- keep your data secure using the council's secure IT and email systems
- retain/destroy your data in accordance with the council's Retention and Disposal Schedule

You have the right to access your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data and to rectify mistakes, erase, restrict, object or move your data in certain circumstances.

You can withdraw your consent for your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data to be processed as described above at any time. If you would like this to happen or you have a complaint about how your data is handled, please contact your Elected Member.

If you are not satisfied with the response or believe the Elected Member is not processing your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data in accordance with the law you can complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#).

Data Transfers

It may sometimes be necessary to transfer personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data beyond the UK to comply with legal or other obligations.

Where data is required to be transferred to the European Union or other adequate countries the council will ensure that all relevant safeguards are in place before this takes place and that all aspects of the UKGDPR/Data Protection Act 2018 are complied with.

Data requested for transfer to non-adequate countries will be subject to a Transfer Impact Assessment, that includes the identification of appropriate safeguards prior to data being authorised for transfer.

Data Security and Retention

The council is required by [UKGDPR Article 32](#) to ensure that appropriate organisational and security measures are in place to protect your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data.

Security measures include: anonymisation, pseudonymisation, encryption, access controls on systems, regular testing of our systems, security training for all employees. You can find further information in the following documents:

- [Information Security Policy](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [PSN Connection Compliance Certificate](#)

If you access information online, the council website does not store or capture personal information, but merely logs a number called your IP address which is automatically recognised by the system. The system will record personal information if you:

- subscribe to or apply for services that require personal information
- report a fault and give your contact details for us to respond
- contact us and leave your details for us to respond

For further information visit our [Cookies Policy](#).

Westmorland and Furness Council will only store your information for as long as is legally required in accordance with the council's [Retention and Disposal Schedule](#) or in situations where there is no legal retention period established best practice will be followed.

To help you understand the Schedule the council has published a [Retention Schedule - Quick User Guide](#).

If you have any questions about the Schedule or the Quick User Guide, please contact recordcentre@cumberland.gov.uk.

If you experience any problems in relation to your personal data or you see something that doesn't look right, contact the council by email at: databreaches@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk.

Contacting the Council

Emails

If you email us, we may keep a record of your contact and your email address and the email for our record keeping of the transaction. We suggest that you keep the amount of confidential information you send to us via email to a minimum and use our secure online forms and services. Where available, you can sign up for email alerts for selected services using an external service from GovDelivery, with control over your preferences.

Telephone Calls

The council will inform you if your telephone calls are being recorded or monitored and will not record any financial card details if you make payments by telephone.

Your Rights - Data Subject Access

The UKGDPR provides you with the right to access the personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data the council, as a public authority holds about you. Upon receipt of a valid request the council will:

- provide you with a response within one month
- let you know if your request is subject to an extension
- make reasonable efforts to comply with the format of your request

- inform you if your request is going to be refused or a charge is payable

We will not disclose:

- any information that relates to a third party as this will breach their rights under UKGDPR/Data Protection Act 2018
- where a professional thinks disclosure would cause serious harm to you or someone else
- information that may hinder the prevention or detection of crime.

Individuals wishing to make a subject access request should follow the guidance on the [Westmorland and Furness Council website](#).

Your Rights - Other

In addition to your right of access the UKGDPR gives you the following rights:

- the right to be informed via the council's Privacy Notice
- the right to withdraw your consent. If we are relying on your consent to process your data, then you can remove this at any point
- the right of rectification, we must correct inaccurate or incomplete data within one month
- the right to erasure. You have the right to have your personal data erased and to prevent processing unless we have a legal obligation to process your personal information. Where your personal data has been shared with others, we will ensure those using your personal data comply with your request for erasure.
- the right to restrict processing. You have the right to suppress processing. We can retain just enough information about you to ensure that the restriction is respected in future
- the right to data portability. We can provide you with your personal data in a structured, commonly used, machine readable form when asked
- the right to object. You can object to your personal data being used for profiling, direct marketing or research purposes
- you have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling, to reduce the risk that a potentially damaging decision is taken without human intervention.

Where our processing of your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data is based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. If you do decide to withdraw your consent, we will stop processing your personal data for that purpose, unless there is another lawful basis we can rely on - in which case, we will let you know. Your withdrawal of your consent won't impact any of our processing up to that point.

Where our processing of your personal, special category personal or criminal/law enforcement data is necessary for our legitimate interests, you can object to this processing at any time. If you do this, we will need to show either a compelling reason why our processing should continue, which overrides your interests, rights and freedoms or that the processing is necessary for us to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim.

Unless otherwise stated above you can exercise any of these rights by contacting:

Email:

dataprotection@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Post:

South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4DQ

Verifying Your Identity

When exercising the rights mentioned above, please be aware that under UKGDPR Article 12(6) additional information can be requested to verify that you are the data subject if your identity is unconfirmed. Please note that:

- additional documentation is only required when the council cannot verify your identity using internal council systems that relate to the service you are requesting information about
- the council will contact you for this documentation prior to processing your request
- the statutory deadline for responding to your request will start when you have provided the additional documentation
- failure to provide additional documentation may lead to the council rejecting your request.

Complaints

If you have concerns about the way the council has processed your data, please contact:

Email: dataprotection@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Post: South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4DQ

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are not processing your personal data in accordance with the law you can [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#)