



The “Balancing Act”: Sharing Data for Safeguarding (GDPR Article 6(1)(f))

Why a “Balancing Exercise” is Needed

- **When it happens:** When working with at-risk adults, organisations often need to **process or share** their personal information with others.
- **The Goal:** This is often done to **safeguard and protect** the interests and rights of an individual at risk or in a vulnerable situation.



- **Before sharing:** Before any personal data is shared, the organisation must perform a “balancing exercise.”
- **What it balances:** It weighs the organisation’s (or the other group’s) legitimate interest (e.g., protecting the person) against the **rights of the individual** whose data will be shared.
- **Also consider:** Is sharing the data **necessary and proportionate?** Or can the goal be achieved in a way that’s less intrusive to privacy?

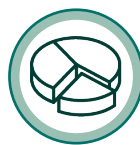
The Three Key Steps for Article 6(1)(f) GDPR

To use Article 6(1)(f) (Legitimate Interests) as a legal reason for sharing, organisations need to consider three main elements:



Step 1: Identify the “Legitimate Interest”

What it means: Clearly define the specific, lawful reason for sharing the data (e.g., preventing harm, protecting a vulnerable person).



Step 2: Show “Necessity”

What it means: Demonstrate that sharing this personal data is absolutely necessary to achieve that identified legitimate interest.



Step 3: “Balance” Against Individual Rights

What it means: Carefully weigh your legitimate interest against the individual’s interests, rights, and freedoms (especially their right to privacy).

Further general guidance about the three elements for the Article 6(1)(f) GDPR legitimate interests lawful basis can be found on our website www.dataprotection.ie