

TARUN SAMTANI

Data Protection & Privacy Leader

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Executive Summary

A seasoned Data Privacy leader with extensive legal expertise and operational experience successfully developing and implementing data privacy frameworks across diverse international organizations (90+ countries, 6+ industries). Led the Data Privacy Program at International SOS Medical Services, ensuring global compliance with ISO 27701 Privacy standard. **Trusted privacy legal advisor**, leveraging a comprehensive understanding of international privacy regulations to guide organizations on navigating complex data privacy matters. **Personable character and business enabler** who supports business objectives in the most compliant and business-acceptable manner.

Key Skills

- **Strategic Planning & Program Management:** Develop and lead comprehensive data privacy programs, ensuring alignment with business objectives and global compliance.
- **Privacy Governance & Legal Advice:** Provide actionable, tailored legal advice on global privacy laws, mitigating risk, promoting 'privacy by design,' and embedding data privacy & ethics principles.
- **Privacy Culture Building & Awareness Training:** Cultivate a privacy-conscious environment through engaging training programs and awareness initiatives.
- **Privacy by Design & AI Governance:** Integrate privacy, AI and ethical principles into products & solutions, including AI/ML systems. Collaborate extensively with tech teams including IT, InfoSec, UX/Digital, etc. to ensure privacy legal compliant solutions are baked into the design.
- **Senior Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborate effectively with senior leadership across diverse teams to achieve program goals and foster a collaborative privacy culture.
- **Clear & Concise Communication:** Draft clear, concise, and easy-to-understand privacy policies and procedures for diverse audiences.
- **Audit & Compliance Support:** Support successful audits (e.g., ISO 27701/ISO 27001) by ensuring teams are prepared to demonstrate adherence to international privacy standards.

Certifications

PG Certificate in Data Protection Law	2022
Fellow of Privacy Technology, OneTrust	2020
CIPM (Certified Information Privacy Manager), IAPP	2020
CISSP: Certified Information Systems Security Professional, ISC2	2004

Education

- **Master of Laws (ongoing) – Data Protection Law (LLM Candidate)** - Northumbria University, UK
 - Year 1 successfully completed with commendation (PG Certificate).
 - Year 2 expected completion - May 2024 (PG Diploma).
 - Year 3 expected completion - Jan 2025 (LLM).
- **Bachelor of Telecommunications & Electronics**

Professional Experience

Global Privacy Program Director & DPO (Legal Consultant) **Jan 21 – Present**
International SOS (Medical Services Business line & Group Corp Centre)

- **Strategic Privacy Leadership:** Provided strategic counsel to business leadership and Board committees on managing data privacy risks.
- **Privacy Legal Compliance:** Partnered with consulting, client services, technology, product, IT, Marketing, HR, Finance, and business teams to integrate privacy considerations and build technical, organisational and contractual safeguards into new engagements. Led the creation of a successful PIPL compliance program, culminating in approval from the relevant privacy authorities.
- **HR & AI Guidance:** Advised global HR on the legal and ethical implications of AI in HR practices (CV scanning, video interviews, chatbots) focusing on data privacy and fairness.
- **"Privacy by Design" Champion:** Advocated for and implemented "privacy by design" principles within products and solutions for high-profile clients like Google, Apple, and other FTSE 500 entities.
- **Operational Excellence:** Oversaw ongoing privacy compliance monitoring, incident response & management, and DPIA's. Led successful ISO 27701 (Privacy PIMS) and 27001 (InfoSec ISMS) audits and established a Data Protection champion network to drive local compliance initiatives.
- **Policy & Training Development:** Spearheaded ongoing reviews and enhancements of key privacy policies, SOPs, and guidelines, and developed & delivered impactful data protection training programs, fostering a culture of privacy across the organization.

Senior Manager, Privacy (Managing Consultant) **May 20 – Dec 20**
National Australia Bank (Financial Services)

- **AI & Data Governance:** Collaborated with data scientists to provide privacy legal and ethical guidance on the use of transactional financial data for various data & AI use cases, particularly those related to **Sanctions compliance** (or KYC for Sanctions Screening) and Anti-Money Laundering (**AML**) compliance. This collaboration ensured data privacy by design principles were embedded within the development of these use cases.
- Spearheaded the review and design of multi-jurisdictional Privacy obligations, crafting detailed guidance notes, policies, procedures, and a robust "Privacy by design" framework.
- **Risk Management & Partnership:** Partnered with stakeholders to map & manage data privacy risks across business units (financial crime) and with data governance/IT/security teams to identify risks.

Group Privacy Manager (Managing Consultant) **Aug 19 – Apr 20**
Qantas Group, Australia (Airline industry)

- **Strategic Privacy Leadership & Regulatory Expertise:** Provided strategic legal advice on complex privacy considerations arising from innovative data use cases across marketing (online behavioural advertising/targeted advertising), the Qantas loyalty program, and other partnerships. Handled interactions with APAC Supervisory Authorities regarding privacy inquiries and potential non-compliance concerns.
- **Privacy Governance & Awareness:** Developed and implemented the Group Privacy Framework, collaborating with stakeholders to ensure alignment with regulations (**GDPR**, APPs, APAC PDPAs). Led a team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) including data ethics experts, project managers, business analysts, and a Learning & Development Partner to create and manage a tailored Data Protection Awareness and operational compliance program.

- **Privacy by Design & Operational Excellence:** Championed the "Privacy by Design" framework, including data mapping, Privacy Threshold assessments and Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) to embed privacy into all processes, especially those involving AI and machine learning (e.g., smart pricing for airline tickets, personalization in Qantas/Jetstar web/mobile apps). This included reviewing new product features and functionalities (including UX) for compliance with data privacy regulations, ensuring adherence to terms of service and privacy policy requirements (notice and consent). Designed, built, and implemented a new Privacy Incident Management framework integrated with the Cyber team for a resilient data breach response. Led the successful project that automated all Personal Information requests (Subject Access Requests, deletions, etc.).

Global Data Protection Officer (DPO) (Contract)

Apr 18 – Aug 19

JP Boden UK & JP Boden Europe Ltd, UK (Retail Industry)

- Led the development and implementation of a comprehensive data privacy program, ensuring compliance with **GDPR**, CCPA, and other international regulations across Boden's multi-channel retail operations (online & physical stores) in Europe, US, and Asia.
- **Strategic Privacy Leadership:** Served as the statutory DPO, registered with UK and European regulators, providing legal guidance, and responding to privacy inquiries. Led comprehensive legal reviews of new digital product features, including those involving AI integration for marketing purposes, to ensure compliance with evolving data privacy regulations.
- **Stakeholder Engagement & Risk Management:** Chaired the Data Privacy Steering Committee, collaborating with leadership to integrate privacy considerations across all aspects of the business. Resolved complex customer privacy complaints and effectively engaged with regulators and external counsel, minimizing business risk. Led annual GDPR compliance internal audits to ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Operational Excellence & Privacy by Design:** Built and led a network of Privacy Champions across business units, empowering them to handle first-line inquiries and fostering a culture of data privacy ownership. Established and implemented internal & external Privacy Policies. Drafted compliant marketing consent and privacy statements for email, and in-app digital marketing campaigns. Advised marketing teams on the nuances of global digital marketing to ensure their campaigns adhered to data privacy regulations in relevant jurisdictions. Provided specific guidance on cookie types, purposes, and legal bases for processing data collected through cookies in accordance with relevant jurisdictions.

Group DPO (Contract)

Oct 17 – Jun 18

Vectura Group Plc & Skyepharma Ltd, UK/France (Healthcare industry)

- Led a comprehensive GDPR compliance program during the merger of Vectura Group and Skyepharma, ensuring alignment with data privacy regulations across all functions (product development, manufacturing, sales & marketing).
- **Strategic Privacy Leadership & Project Management:** Delivered a phased GDPR readiness program, conducting gap analyses, risk assessments, and implementing controls to mitigate identified risks. Established governance committees for ongoing compliance monitoring and Board reporting.
- **Legal Expertise & Merger Integration:** Conducted gap analysis and provided legal guidance on data privacy considerations throughout the merger process, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations during data system integration and migration.
- **Operational Excellence & Privacy by Design:** Led the creation and implementation of core privacy processes (Subject Access Requests, Right to be Forgotten) and the GDPR Article 30 register, fostering a culture of data privacy awareness and accountability.

Group Security & Privacy Manager (Contract) **Feb 16 – Oct 17**
 Findel Plc, Express Gifts Ltd. & Findel Education Ltd, UK (Retail Industry)

- Established a foundational data protection compliance framework, anticipating the evolving regulatory landscape in the years leading up to GDPR implementation in 2018.
- Subject Matter Expert (SME) for data protection, providing guidance and responding to inquiries.

Information Security Officer & Privacy Manager **Sep 13 – Jan 16**
 Ebuyer UK LTD & WREN Living LTD, UK (Retail Industry)

- Established a data protection compliance framework for the group.
- Established a strategic plan for DDoS mitigation to ensure the site availability after the barrage of DDoS attacks in 2014 for extortion. Liaised with the Law Enforcement & Privacy regulators on a regular basis to assist with the investigations.
- Delivered a roadmap for an enterprise-wide security & privacy awareness program.

Previous Career Summary

Cybersecurity Manager (Thomson Reuters, British Telecom, Alcatel-Lucent) **2001 – 2013**

Awards

Ebuyer UK Employee of the year Award **2013**

International SOS Values Ambassador for **Expertise** **2022**

References available on request.