



PRIVACY & LEGAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LIMITED.

Executive Guide

What Boards Are Accountable For Under the DPA

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What directors and senior leaders need to know—now

Key Message:

Data protection is no longer a technical or administrative issue. Under Jamaica's Data Protection Act, **accountability sits with leadership.**

What the Board Is Ultimately Responsible For

1. Governance & Oversight

Boards are responsible for ensuring that:

- The organization has appropriate data protection governance
- A Data Protection Officer is appointed where required
- Compliance is monitored and reported

Delegation does **not** remove accountability.

2. Risk Management

Boards must ensure that:

- Data protection risks are identified and assessed
 - Cybersecurity and privacy risks are treated as enterprise risks
 - Data protection is integrated into overall risk management frameworks
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3. Resourcing & Capability

Leadership is accountable for ensuring:

- Adequate expertise is in place (internal or external)
- Appropriate tools and systems support compliance
- Staff are trained and aware of their obligations

Under-resourcing compliance is a governance failure.



4. Incident & Breach Response

Boards will be questioned on:

- Whether the organization was prepared for a breach
- How quickly leadership responded
- Whether regulators were notified appropriately
- Whether lessons were learned and controls improved

Poor response compounds liability.

5. Third-Party Oversight

Directors are accountable for:

- Ensuring vendors handling personal data are properly governed
 - Approving risk-based oversight of processors and partners
 - Preventing “outsourced risk” without control
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What Regulators and Auditors Ask First

- Who is accountable for data protection?
 - How does the board receive assurance?
 - When was the last risk assessment conducted?
 - What happens if there is a breach tomorrow?
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The Bottom Line

Boards are not expected to manage day-to-day compliance.
They **are** expected to ensure it exists, works, and is properly supported.



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