

Hi,

I would like to comment about the way Swedish Data Protection Authority (Datainspektionen) has chosen to interpret and enforce European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The Swedish Data Protection Authority (Datainspektionen) has decided that GDPR does not apply to companies and search engines which hold a publication authorization (In Swedish: "utgivningsbevis") and are therefore authorized by the Swedish state to perform yellow pages operations. The data protection authority argues that these operations fall under "freedom of speech" which makes them exempt from GDPR requirements, including the requirement to implement privacy by design and right to be forgotten.

Today, several Swedish web sites (including Ratsit, MrKoll, Eniro, Hitta.se, MerInfo, etc.) publish detailed personal information about Swedish residents which contain full name, address, phone numbers, age, co-inhabitants, property ownership, vehicle registration, income band and criminal background. Personal information of every Swedish resident is published by default and there is no opt-out possibility; this goes against the GDPR principles "privacy by design" and "right to be forgotten".

I have contacted each one of the above mentioned websites and they all either refused to remove any or part of my personal data, citing that they have the necessary authorization from Swedish government. We are not only stripped off our privacy, but we are also prevented from exercising our right to be forgotten. I struggle to understand, how publishing information regarding what car I own, how much is my property is worth and who I live with can be justified under freedom of speech. My personally identifiable information (name, surname, date of birth, contact details) belong to me; I and only I shall have the right to decide whether this information can be public or not.

Best regards,

Erkan Kahraman