

1 SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE (SOCAG) — PRIVACY POLICY

Approved by: SocAg Board of Trustees
Next Review Date: 1st January 2027

1.1 1. Purpose and Scope

This Privacy Policy explains how the Society of Agriculture (“SocAg”, “we”, “us”, “our”) collects, uses, stores, and protects personal information. It applies to all personal data processed by the Society in connection with its activities, including membership administration, events, training, communications, governance, and partnership work. SocAg is committed to protecting the privacy and rights of individuals in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018, and other relevant UK legislation.

1.2 2. About Us

The Society of Agriculture (SocAg) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and the UK’s independent professional body for agricultural excellence. We are registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and act as the data controller for all personal data collected in the course of our activities.

Contact details:

Data Protection Lead

Society of Agriculture (SocAg)

Email: admin@soc-ag.org

Website: www.soc-ag.org

1.3 3. Data We Collect

We collect and process personal data that is necessary for the administration and delivery of our services and legitimate organisational purposes. This may include:

- Member information: name, title, job role, employer, contact details, membership grade, payment details, CPD records.
- Event participants: names, contact details, dietary/access requirements, photographs (where consented).
- Speakers, sponsors, and partners: contact and professional details.
- Website and digital communications users: IP addresses, cookies, and subscription preferences.
- Trustees, staff, and volunteers: employment or governance-related personal data.

1.4 4. How We Use Personal Data

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Society of Agriculture President: Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE FRAGS

Chair: Simon Britton Treasurer: Tom Brunt

Trustees: Wendy Jenkins, David Meredith, Richard Price, Mark Suthern

Director: Victoria Bywater

T: 01174 521134

E: info@soc-ag.org

W: www.soc-ag.org

We use personal information for the following purposes:

- Administering membership, grades, and renewals.
- Recording CPD, awards, and professional recognition.
- Managing events, training, and communications.
- Maintaining accurate financial, audit, and governance records.
- Sending newsletters, updates, and invitations (where consent or legitimate interest applies).
- Meeting our legal, regulatory, and reporting obligations as a registered charity.

1.5 5. Legal Basis for Processing

We rely on the following lawful bases under the UK GDPR:

- Contractual necessity – to deliver membership or event services.
- Legitimate interests – to manage and develop the Society and its professional community.
- Consent – for optional communications, photography, or marketing.
- Legal obligation – for recordkeeping, financial, or safeguarding requirements.

1.6 6. How We Store and Protect Personal Data

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect all data, including:

- Secure servers and password-protected systems.
- Restricted access based on role and responsibility.
- Encrypted storage and backups.
- Regular data protection training for staff and volunteers.

Personal data is retained only for as long as necessary in line with the Society of Agriculture Retention Schedule (VAB 30.10.25).

1.7 7. Sharing Personal Data

We will never sell personal data.

We may share information with:

- Trusted service providers (e.g., event venues, IT systems, payment processors).
- Regulatory bodies (e.g., Charity Commission, HMRC) where legally required.
- Partner organisations for jointly delivered events or professional programmes (only where necessary and with appropriate safeguards).

All third-party processors are required to comply with UK data protection law and our data processing agreements.

1.8 8. International Data Transfers

Where data is transferred outside the UK (for example through cloud-based storage or event platforms), it will only be transferred to countries with UK adequacy regulations or under legally binding safeguards such as Standard Contractual Clauses.

1.9 9. Your Rights

Under the UK GDPR, you have the right to:

- Access your personal data.
- Request correction or deletion.
- Restrict or object to processing.
- Withdraw consent at any time (where consent is the legal basis).
- Request data portability.
- Lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

ICO contact: www.ico.org.uk | 0303 123 1113

Requests should be made in writing to the Data Protection Lead at admin@soc-ag.org.

1.10 10. Cookies and Website Analytics

The Society of Agriculture's website may use cookies to improve user experience and monitor website activity. Users can control or delete cookies through their browser settings. Analytics data is anonymised and used solely for performance monitoring and site improvement.

1.11 11. Photography and Media

Event photography or filming may be used for marketing or record purposes. Individuals will be informed and given the option to withdraw consent before use in any publication or online post.

1.12 12. Data Breach Procedure

Any suspected personal data breach must be reported immediately to the Data Protection Lead. The Society of Agriculture will investigate and, where required, report notifiable breaches to the ICO within 72 hours in accordance with the Data Protection Policy and internal incident response plan.

1.13 13. Review and Updates

This Privacy Policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if legislation or practice changes. The latest approved version will always be available on the The Society of Agriculture website and from the administration office.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

