

Facebook Inc.
Attn. Richard Allen
Hanover Reach
5-7 Hanover Quay
Dublin, 2
Ireland

Your reference

Our reference
11/00643-5/FUE

Date
4. July 2011

Questions to Facebook from the Nordic DPA's

The Norwegian Data Inspectorate refers to our constructive dialogue in our offices the 9th of March 2011. In the meeting we discussed several issues, including a draft of The Data Inspectorate's report on social media; "Social network services and p privacy". The report has a special focus on Facebook and its services. After the meeting the draft was, as agreed, forwarded to your office for commenting. On the 31th March 2011 the Data Inspectorate received your comments, and these were later on included in the final report. Please find attached the final version of the report.

One of the report's main conclusions is the need for further clarification with regards to the processing of personal information in Facebook- related services. From our point of view, there are still challenges with regards to the transparency of these services. The Inspectorate is aware that Facebook has developed its information procedures during the last years to ensure that they inform new and existing users about their privacy policy. There are however still some areas that need to be clarified further. To achieve more transparency in Facebooks handling of the collected information, the DPA's would like to put forward several questions related to the in order to get a better understanding of how Facebook operate.

In our meeting we got the impression that your company would respond positively to receiving such questions. At the same time you stressed that it would beneficial if such questions were sent as a joint initiative from several countries. Thus, The Norwegian Data Inspectorate has cooperated with the other Nordic DPA's in this case. On the 26th of May 2011 the matter was discussed in a Nordic forum, where all Directors from the Nordic data protection agencies were present. Please find attached the result of this joint process; "Social network services and privacy -Part II -Questions."

The questions are forwarded on behalf of the following Nordic countries: Sweden, Denmark (including Faroe Islands), Norway and Finland (including Åland). The aforementioned countries are well acquainted with the Irish Authority's role as the leading authority in relation to enforce privacy legislation towards Facebook. These questions should therefore be seen as an appeal to Facebook to clarify privacy related details that are considered important from Nordic agencies point of view.

The purpose of this inquiry is to increase the Nordic DPA`s knowledge of your services. This is both for us as national authorities and so that we can inform and advise our national users of Facebook on privacy related issues concerned. Your answers from your company may also be passed on to other European Data Protection agencies.

The Norwegian Data Inspectorate would like to express its appreciation of our cooperation. We assure you that we will keep you informed about any further development in this matter after receiving your reply. The Inspectorate will, if possible, anticipate your reply to the attached questions before the end of August, if possible.

Best regards,

Bjørn Erik Thon
Director general

Frank Ulfsby Eriksen
Senior engineer

Attached: "Social network services and privacy" part I – report and part II "Questions"

Copy: DPA in Sweden, Denmark and Finland
The Data Protection Commissioner of Ireland