

Data Protection and Privacy Policy

Privacy policy

The Furniture History Society (the "Society") is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal data. We will respect any personal data you share with us, keep it safe and not do anything with it that you would not reasonably expect.

Your privacy

Please read this Privacy Policy carefully to understand our practices regarding your personal data and how we will collect, use and store it. We may update this policy from time to time. If there are significant amendments, we will inform those people with whom we are in regular contact, such as the members of the Society, but we may not tell everyone on our database.

1. Who we are.

The Furniture History Society is a UK registered charity and unincorporated association. Its core activities include publishing; education (through a programme of public lectures, symposia, &c.); the organisation of visits and tours both in Great Britain and overseas; the making of grants for research or study purposes; the management of a membership organisation, and fund-raising activities both for itself and third parties.

The Society's address is c/o The Department of Furniture, Textiles and Fashion, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL.

The Society is a data controller of your personal data and personal data may be shared internally to facilitate, support and integrate its various activities.

2. How do we collect and use personal data?

2.1 What personal data do we hold?

Some examples of the type of information we may collect and hold about you are as follows:

- your full name and your title;
- your birth date or alternatively a relevant age range;
- postal address;
- telephone number(s);
- email address;
- records of your correspondence with us;
- bank or credit card details (if you purchase something from us, donate to us, or pay your subscription by bankers' order, direct debit or debit or credit card);
- donation and gift aid details (if you donate to us);
- information you enter into our websites and digital products and details of how you use those websites and digital products;
- dietary, accessibility, and mobility information;
- photographs and digital images of individuals; and
- data that will enable us to be more precise in what we send you or how we approach you

We do not collect sensitive personal data. We may also process personal data for reasons of substantial public interest or where necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

2.2. How will we use your personal data?

To administer all aspects of our membership programme.

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To provide you with the information, product or service you have requested from us.

To provide you with other information which we feel may interest you. This may include newsletters, information in relation to events we think you may be interested in attending, fundraising campaigns, and details of relevant volunteering opportunities.

To keep in contact with you in the ways that you have requested or agreed to.

To keep a record of our relationship with you.

To notify you about changes to our services.

To administer and process payments you make for products, services and charitable donations made to any of our entities.

To verify your identity where required to use some of our services and benefits.

To comply with applicable laws and regulations and requests from statutory agencies including for such purposes as health and safety; the detection and prevention of crime and safeguarding.

2.3. How do we keep your personal data?

Personal information is stored on a password-protected database and/or in paper form.

2.4. Fundraising

Charitable giving is important to the Society's ability to carry out its core activities. In this respect, we carry out a variety of activities, ranging from appeals for one-off donations to large fundraising initiatives. We want to ensure that we are contacting you with tailored and appropriate communications and to communicate with you from time to time to thank you for your support.

3. What lawful bases do we rely on to use your personal data?

The legal bases that we rely on for processing your personal data are either:

3.1. You have provided your consent to us using your personal data for a specific purpose.

We will ask for your consent to use your personal data to send you specific types of communication and you always have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

3.2. It is necessary in connection with the performance of a contract with you.

Sometimes it is necessary to process your personal data so that we can enter into contractual relationships with you. For example, if you become a member of the Society we will require your personal data to enable us to perform our agreement.

3.3. It is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which we are subject.

This would include where we have to retain certain records, for example, to ensure we comply with health and safety requirements or for tax reasons (such as those related to gift aid donations).

3.4. It is within our legitimate interests

Applicable law allows personal data to be collected and used if it is reasonably necessary for our legitimate interests and we will rely on this ground to process your personal data when it is not practical or appropriate to ask for your consent, and where we are confident that this will not adversely impact your rights. We will rely on our legitimate interests for the proper administration of the Society, and to manage our operations - for example, maintaining appropriate records and databases.

4. How we collect personal data

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We collect information about you when:

4.1. It is given to us directly by you

You may give us your personal data for a number of reasons. This includes: to receive information from us about our activities; for the administering and renewing of your membership; to participate in volunteering activities with us; when you donate to us; or when you engage with us on our website.

4.2. When a third party provides us with your personal data

This might include individuals who may purchase a membership as a gift on your behalf.

4.3. When it is available publicly

We may combine personal data you provide to us with personal data available from external publicly available sources such as company websites, published articles and social media sites. We use this personal data to improve our communications.

4.4. When you use our website

We may collect personal data about you when you use our website. Whenever you input personal data into our website (for example, if you become a member or renew a membership online or book an event), we will collect the personal data that you give to us.

We use “cookies” to identify you when you visit our websites and digital products. Amongst other things this helps us to understand our website users and may enable us to improve the website experience for you and/or other users. We may collect other personal data from your use of the website, such as your IP address and access times.

We may link our websites directly to other sites. This privacy policy does not cover external websites and we are not responsible for the privacy practices or content of those sites

5. Communications and marketing

We may contact you by post, telephone or email where you have provided consent, or where we have a legitimate interest. We provide the opportunity for you to opt-out from receiving our marketing communications at any point by contacting membership@furniturehistorysociety.org.

6. Data sharing

We do not sell your information under any circumstances, nor share your personal data with third parties for marketing purposes.

Whilst we may allow our staff, consultants and/or external service providers acting on our behalf to access and use your personal data for the activities we have described in this policy (e.g. to provide services or products to you or to deliver mailings), we only permit them to use it to deliver the relevant information, goods or services, and only if they apply an appropriate level of security protection.

We may need to disclose your personal data upon request to regulatory and government bodies as well as law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, the transmission of personal data via the internet is not completely secure and any transmission through our website or via email is at your own risk.

7. Data safety and access

We are committed to ensuring that there are appropriate technical controls in place to protect your personal data including protection from misuse and unauthorised access. For example our network is protected and routinely tested.

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Your information is only accessible by staff, volunteers and contractors who are bound by appropriate policies and procedures to protect your information.

8. Your rights

In certain circumstances you have a right to require us to stop processing your personal data in a particular way including rights to:

1. Erasure of your data;
2. Access to your data record in a portable format; and
3. Rectification of your data record.

For more information, we suggest that you consult guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>.

9. Complaints

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your personal data please contact us at membership@furniturehistorysociety.org.

You are also entitled to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. For further information see: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/personal-information>.

10. Data retention

We keep personal data for as long as there is a need to keep it in connection with the purposes for which it was collected. We may keep your personal data after a particular matter or exchange has concluded but purely for record keeping purposes and to be able to respond to queries. In some cases, we are also obliged to retain your personal data to comply with legal or statutory obligations (for example, to keep records of contractual or financial matters).

Whilst the specific time periods vary depending on the circumstances, in general we will not keep records that include personal data for more than 8 years after a particular matter or exchange has concluded. In the event that you ask us to stop sending you marketing communications, we may retain certain details, such as your name and email address, but only to ensure that you are not contacted again.

11. Changes to this privacy policy

We keep our privacy policy under regular review. This privacy policy was adopted in June 2018 and updated in July 2023.