



agenci

Part of the CYBERFORT group

A compliance partnership to audit and align to ISO27001 and GDPR

Bell & Buxton Solicitors is a Sheffield-based, Legal 500 law firm providing expertise across personal and commercial law, as well as Notary services to businesses and private individuals throughout Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Founded in 1875, the firm has a strong heritage of results, with a dedicated and specialist team who have earned a reputation for excellence, value and customer service.

The Challenge

When GDPR was adopted by the European Parliament in April 2016, giving businesses across the EU two years to prepare for its implementation, Bell & Buxton recognised an opportunity to upgrade its cyber security posture. As an SME, it sought third-party validation that it was doing everything possible to comply with the regulation and protect its customers' personal data.

To achieve this, Bell & Buxton needed a compliance partner to comprehensively audit the business's people, premises, processes, systems and providers. It would need to identify potential risks in each of these areas, and draft bespoke information security policies to write any security gaps out of the business.

The chosen partner would also need to help Bell & Buxton ensure ongoing compliance as it transitioned to using cloud-based equipment and services, as well as helping staff to ensure that the business's partners were aligned with recognised data security standards.

Solution

Agenci was introduced to Bell & Buxton in September 2016 by one of its partners. Following an initial assessment of the business and its readiness for GDPR, Agenci's compliance experts recommended that Bell & Buxton work to align itself with ISO 27001, the international standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).

As a relatively small business, this was a cost effective and achievable way for Bell & Buxton to evidence that it was making every effort to comply with GDPR. With 114 controls to adhere to, however, it was also a sizable compliance project to take on.

Led by Managing Director Gary Hibberd, Agenci's dedicated team worked closely with Bell & Buxton to create a tailored roadmap to ISO 27001 alignment, including bespoke company policies and procedures to strengthen the business's overall data protection posture.

Agenci gave Bell & Buxton the confidence to ask questions of its partners, and ensure that they were taking data protection seriously. As a result, Bell & Buxton engaged with a new, ISO 27001 compliant IT provider, and ceased working with any third-parties that do not adhere to the standard.

To ensure ongoing compliance, Agenci's consultants regularly visit Bell & Buxton's offices to review its policies in line with emerging cyber threats, and deliver practical advice through monthly compliance webinars.



“Unlike many other businesses, Bell & Buxton should be praised for seeing GDPR as an opportunity to strengthen its cyber security posture, rather than something to be feared or treated as a tick-box exercise. This refreshing approach to data protection made it easy to support the company’s compliance efforts, and help the team achieve bespoke alignment with ISO 27001 far before GDPR was implemented.

“As a result of our time working together, Bell & Buxton is now largely self-sufficient in managing its compliance with internationally recognised standards. That said, we continue to enjoy a great relationship with the team, and we will be there to support them in continually strengthening their cyber resilience.”

Gary Hibberd, Managing Director at Agenci

Products & services

- Comprehensive ISO 27001 consultancy
- Building of a bespoke information security framework
- Support with drafting core data protection policies and procedures
- Ongoing support through regular compliance audits and webinars
- Review of Bell & Buxton’s partners’ compliance with recognised standards

Results & benefits delivered

- Strengthened trust with customers by evidencing commitment to data protection
- Achieved cost-effectiveness and efficiency around information security
- Increased awareness around cyber threats across the workforce
- Upgraded security of partners and suppliers
- Ensured continuous compliance through ongoing audits and training

Their verdict

“Agenci left no stone unturned in helping us achieve alignment with ISO 27001. From our very first meeting with Gary, they worked closely with us to minimise risk across the business, and prove that we are doing everything in our power to comply with GDPR. From drafting disaster recovery plans to recommending new security-focused suppliers, Agenci have been there every step of the way, and given us the confidence to tackle new cyber threats.

“Thanks to Agenci’s knowledge transfer approach, we’re now considering additional ways to strengthen the cyber resilience of our new products and services, including penetration testing for our new website, and working exclusively with ISO 27001 compliant cloud service providers. Having Agenci as our compliance partner is a major asset when dealing with our clients. We wouldn’t hesitate to recommend them to anyone looking to enhance their information security posture.”

Charlotte Akpinar, Practice and Compliance Manager at Bell & Buxton Solicitors