## Privacy Risk Framework Project

The Centre is launching a new project to explore what is really meant by the increasingly fashionable concept of taking a more "Risk-based Approach to Privacy." Many of the issues arise naturally and inevitably from the Centre's pioneering work on Accountability, but so far remain largely unexplored.

As the pace of technological change out-strips conventional thinking, a Risk-based approach should improve the ability of privacy officers and businesses to take a structured approach. By assessing the data privacy implications of new products, services and other activities from the perspective of possible negative impact on individuals, the aim should be to reduce the likelihood of serious harm.

The results are likely to be reflected in well-targeted privacy programs and other safeguards. A new consensus on a Risk-based approach ought also help regulators fix their priorities for interpreting and enforcing the rules, and give businesses a better idea of what to expect and how best to avoid regulatory trouble. For the longer term, the project hopes to generate materials which will help policy-makers and legislators to identify desired outcomes and shape rules for the future which are more effective and less burdensome.

**The project will examine:**

- What is meant by a "Risk-based Approach"?
- How should the different types of harm which may impact on individuals best be articulated?
- What are the main threats arising from the use of personal information which may lead to harm?
- How can the likelihood of serious harm best be measured and mitigated?
- What tools can be developed for businesses to turn this approach into concrete action?
- What is the scope for regulators to adopt a more Risk-based Approach to Privacy?
- What are the implications for the underlying objectives of privacy/data protection regulation?

**Project timeline:**

- January 2014 – Formation of steering committee and official launch of the project

- February 2014 – Completion of initial discussion paper

- 20 March 2014 – Workshop I in Paris with key stakeholders

- 29 April 2014 – Pre-conference Seminar at IAPP Data Protection Intensive, London

- May 2014 – Publication of Phase I paper

- November 2014 – Workshop II (To be Announced)