PRIVACY NOTICE – Mystery Shoppers

Introduction

MSL collects and processes personal information, or personal data, relating to its mystery shoppers to manage the working relationship. This personal information may be held by MSL on paper or in electronic format.

MSL is committed to being transparent about how it handles your personal information, to protecting the privacy and security of your personal information and to meeting its data protection obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The purpose of this privacy notice is to make you aware of how and why we will collect and use your personal information both during and after your working relationship with MSL. We are required under the GDPR to notify you of the information contained in this privacy notice.

This privacy notice applies to all current and former mystery shoppers. It is non-contractual.

Data protection principles

Under the GDPR, there are six data protection principles that MSL must comply with. These provide that the personal information we hold about you must be:

1. Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.
2. Collected only for legitimate purposes that have been clearly explained to you and not further processed in a way that is incompatible with those purposes.
3. Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to those purposes.
4. Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
5. Kept in a form which permits your identification for no longer than is necessary for those purposes.
6. Processed in a way that ensures appropriate security of the data.

What types of personal information do we collect about you?

Personal information is any information about an individual from which that person can be directly or indirectly identified. There are also “special categories” of personal information as well as criminal convictions and offences, which requires a higher level of protection because it is of a more sensitive nature. The special categories of personal information comprise information about an individual’s racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sex life or sexual orientation and genetic and biometric data.

MSL collects, uses and processes a range of personal information about you. This includes (as applicable):

- Contact details, including your name, address, telephone number and personal e-mail address
- Height, hair colour and glasses information.
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Marital status
- Employer Information
- National Insurance number
- Bank account details and shopper fee records
- Performance reviews and ratings
- Information obtained through electronic means, such as signing-in records
- PayPal address
- IP Address
- Photograph

MSL may also collect, use and process the following special categories of your personal information if explicit consent from you is received:

- Information about whether you have a Disability
- Information about your racial or ethnic origin
- Information about criminal convictions and offences.
How do we collect your personal information?

MSL may collect personal information about mystery shoppers in a variety of ways. It is collected during the signup process directly from you. We will also collect additional personal information in the course of your mystery shopping activities. Whilst some of the personal information you provide to us is a contractual requirement, some of it you may be asked to provide to us on a voluntary basis. We will inform you whether you are required to provide certain personal information to us or if you have a choice in this.

Your personal information may be stored in different places, including MSL Online and in other IT systems, such as the e-mail system.

Why and how do we use your personal information?

We will only use your personal information when the law allows us to. These are known as the legal bases for processing. We will use your personal information in one or more of the following circumstances:

- Where we need to do so to perform the contract for services we have entered into with you.
- Where we need to comply with a legal obligation.
- Where it is necessary for our legitimate interests (or those of a third party), and your interests or your fundamental rights and freedoms do not override our interests.

We need all the types of personal information listed under “What types of personal information do we collect about you?” primarily to enable us to perform our contract with you and to enable us to comply with our legal obligations. In some cases, we may also use your personal information where it is necessary to pursue our legitimate interests (or those of a third party), provided that your interests or your fundamental rights and freedoms do not override our interests. Our legitimate interests include: performing or exercising our obligations or rights under the direct relationship that exists between MSL and you as its contractor; performing effective internal administration and ensuring the smooth running of the business; ensuring the security and effective operation of our systems and network; protecting our confidential information; and conducting due diligence on mystery shoppers. We believe that you have a reasonable expectation, as our contractor, that we will process your personal information.

The purposes for which we are processing, or will process, your personal information are to:

- Enable us to maintain accurate and up-to-date contractor records and contact details
- Assess your suitability for a mystery shop
- Maintain an accurate record of your contract terms
- Administer the contract we have entered into with you
- Ensure you are paid correctly
- Operate and maintain a record of performance management system
- Contact you with available mystery shops in your area
- Send you a quarterly newsletter including hints and tips of how to be an expert mystery shopper
- Manage, plan and organise mystery shops
- Meet our obligations under health and safety laws
- Make decisions about continued engagement
- Prevent fraud
- Ensure adherence to company rules, policies and procedures
- Enable us to establish, exercise or defend possible legal claims

Please note that we may process your personal information without your consent, in compliance with these rules, where this is required or permitted by law.

Why and how do we use your sensitive personal information?

We will only collect and use your sensitive personal information, which includes special categories of personal information and information about criminal convictions and offences, when the law allows us to.

Change of purpose
We will only use your personal information for the purposes for which we collected it.
Who has access to your personal information?
Your personal information may be shared internally within MSL, including payroll staff.
MSL may also share your personal information with third-party service providers (and their designated agents), including:

- Shopmetrics – the company that facilitate MSL Online and allow you to become a mystery shopper with us.
- Mystery Shoppers Bulgaria Ltd – the company that help us schedule and quality control our mystery shopping assignments.

Both Shopmetrics and MSB are subject to a data processing agreement with MSL.

If as part of your mystery shopping assignment, it is required that any of your personal information needs to be shared with the Client – this will be clearly noted on the Shopper Brief and it is up to you to decide whether you would like to take part in that assignment or not.

How does MSL protect your personal information?
MSL has put in place measures to protect the security of your personal information. It has internal policies, procedures and controls in place to try and prevent your personal information from being accidentally lost or destroyed, altered, disclosed or used or accessed in an unauthorised way. In addition, we limit access to your personal information to those employees who have a business need to know in order to perform their job duties and responsibilities.

Where your personal information is shared with third-party service providers, we require all third parties to take appropriate technical and organisational security measures to protect your personal information and to treat it subject to a duty of confidentiality and in accordance with data protection law. We only allow them to process your personal information for specified purposes and in accordance with our written instructions and we do not allow them to use your personal information for their own purposes.

MSL also has in place procedures to deal with a suspected data security breach and we will notify the Information Commissioner’s Office (or any other applicable supervisory authority or regulator) and you of a suspected breach where we are legally required to do so.

For how long does MSL keep your personal information?
MSL will only retain your personal information for as long as is necessary to fulfil the purposes for which it was collected and processed, including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, tax, reporting or accounting requirements.

MSL will generally hold your personal information for as long as you are an active shopper with us. The exceptions are:

Once you have deactivated your account or your engagement has been terminated, we will generally hold your personal information for six years after the termination of your engagement in order for us to have a history of previous assignments, performance and users. This is also to protect against legal risk, e.g. if they could be relevant to a possible legal claim in County Court or High Court. We will keep tax shopper fee records for seven years after the termination of your engagement. Overall, this means that we will start to “thin” the file of personal information that we hold on you one year after the termination of your engagement, so that we only continue to retain for a longer period what is strictly necessary.

Personal information which is no longer to be retained will be securely and effectively destroyed or permanently erased from our IT systems and we will also require third parties to destroy or erase such personal information where applicable.

In some circumstances we may anonymise your personal information so that it no longer permits your identification. In this case, we may retain such information for a longer period.

Your rights in connection with your personal information
It is important that the personal information we hold about you is accurate and up to date. Please keep your MSL Online profile up to date and review the information regularly. MSL cannot be held responsible for any errors in your personal information in this regard.
As a data subject, you have a number of statutory rights. Subject to certain conditions, and in certain circumstances, you have the right to:

- Request access to your personal information
- Request rectification of your personal information
- Request the erasure of your personal information
- Restrict the processing of your personal information
- Object to the processing of your personal information
- Data portability

If you wish to exercise any of these rights, please contact shopper.support@mystery-shoppers.co.uk. We may need to request specific information from you in order to verify your identity and check your right to access the personal information or to exercise any of your other rights. This is a security measure to ensure that your personal information is not disclosed to any person who has no right to receive it.

In the limited circumstances where you have provided your consent to the processing of your personal information for a specific purpose, you have the right to withdraw your consent for that specific processing at any time. This will not, however, affect the lawfulness of processing based on your consent before its withdrawal. If you wish to withdraw your consent, please contact shopper.support@mystery-shoppers.co.uk. Once we have received notification that you have withdrawn your consent, we will no longer process your personal information for the purpose you originally agreed to, unless we have another legal basis for processing.

Transferring personal information outside the European Economic Area

If you are a shopper registered in the EEA, MSL will not transfer your personal information to countries outside the European Economic Area.

If you are a shopper registered outside the EEA, MSL may transfer your data to our Franchisees in order for you to be able to carry out your contract services with them.

Changes to this privacy notice

MSL reserves the right to update or amend this privacy notice at any time, including where MSL intends to further process your personal information for a purpose other than that for which the personal information was collected or where we intend to process new types of personal information. We will issue you with a new privacy notice when we make significant updates or amendments. We may also notify you about the processing of your personal information in other ways.

Contacting MSL

If you have any questions about this privacy notice or how we handle your personal information, please contact our Data Protection Officer via email at dpo@mystery-shoppers.co.uk, or by writing to ‘FAO DPO, Mystery Shoppers Ltd, International House, Waldon Way, Holsworthy Industrial Estate, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6ER.’