

Ref: Policy Set for all staff and contracted 3<sup>rd</sup> parties  
Creation date: 31.03.2017  
Next Review date: 01.10.2018  
Version: 1.6



## Information Security Policy Set – All OU Staff and Contracted Third Parties

This document is a collection of the OU Information Security Policies designed to govern the use of OU information assets

*OU – Information Security Team*

Information Classification: **Public**

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## Policy Enforcement

Any breach of these policies is significant as it may undermine the effective running of the OU and its ability to meet its duties and legal obligations. Failure to comply may lead to disciplinary action, including dismissal for serious or repeated breaches. It may also be the case that your conduct and/or action(s) may be unlawful. The OU reserves the right to inform the appropriate authorities in such cases. You should note that you may be personally liable for actions and or conduct arising from the use of OU Systems.

## Exception to policy

- 1.1 Exception to Information Security policies will be considered where there is a justified requirement and the additional risk and/ or cost to mitigate that risk can be balanced with the business benefit.
- 1.2 For an exception to be considered an Exception to security policy request form must be completed.
- 1.3 All exception requests will be considered and processed by IT Information Security.
- 1.4 Approved exception to policy requests will be logged and regularly reviewed.

# Policies that apply to you and how you use your computer

## Information Acceptable Use Policy

### Purpose

This policy defines the acceptable use of Information in order to protect students, research participants, staff and other confidential information and the University's information systems.

### Overview

The Information Acceptable Use Policy covers general secure practice for information handling and should be read in conjunction with the other Information Security policies.

It is the responsibility of every computer user to know and follow this policy.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

#### 1. Information security classification

- 1.1 Information Asset Owners, as defined by the Library guide "Information roles and responsibilities", are responsible for assigning the classification of their OU information, so that appropriate controls can be applied (See Information Classification Policy).
- 1.2 Users must apply and abide by the controls defined within the appropriate Information Security specific policy when processing or storing this information.
- 1.3 Information assets assigned an information security classification must be marked with the information security classification.

#### 2. Information storage and transmission

- 2.1 Unless otherwise approved by IT, information must be stored on Central University Storage, **or approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party storage**, ensuring availability and effective secure storage.
- 2.2 When exchanging information with a third party, you must ensure that it is conveyed securely. Seek advice from the Information Security team and refer to the Third Party Engagement Policy if you are unsure how to do this or which standard needs to be followed.
- 2.3 Mass extractions of Highly Confidential information must be authorised by the Information Asset Owner.
- 2.4 Highly Confidential Information must not be routinely stored outside of Core University Systems, for example on USB Sticks or Network Shares.
- 2.5 Removal of Controls over information and information stores, such as password protection, should not take place without the approval of the Information Asset owner after consultation with the Head of Information Security.

#### 3. Use of confidential information

- 3.1 Do not forward, send or disseminate information assigned an information classification in any way that may compromise the OU or its students. If in doubt speak to your line manager or the Information Asset Owner.

#### 4. Data protection legislation

- 4.1 The University is subject to UK legislation including Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation. It is therefore essential that you also adhere to the University's [Data Protection Code of Practice](#).

#### 5. Information retention

- 5.1 The OU has an information retention schedule which lists types of records, and the length of time they should be retained based on business needs. The OU retention schedule can be found at the [Information Management site](#) within Library Services.

#### 6. Monitoring and privacy

- 6.1 For security and maintenance purposes, authorised individuals within the OU central IT teams may monitor information, systems and network traffic at any time to ensure compliance with this and other security policies, and the effective operation of the University's systems.

# Computer Acceptable Use Policy

## Purpose

This policy defines the acceptable use of OU computer equipment in order to protect the OU's information and systems from risks including information loss, viruses and hacking.

## Overview

The Computer Acceptable Use Policy covers general secure practice for computing and mobile devices and should be read in conjunction with the other Information Security policies.

It is the responsibility of every user to know and follow this policy.

## Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

## Policy

### 1. Accessing OU systems

Users are provided with a username and password to access OU IT services.

- 1.1 Do not disclose or share your username or password, and keep your authentication device secure.
- 1.2 Passwords must be changed regularly. See the Password Policy for more information.
- 1.3 Do not allow anyone else to use your username or password.

### 2. Ensuring information confidentiality

- 2.1 Computers and mobile devices must not be left unattended whilst unlocked.
- 2.2 Take extra care with computer equipment and information when working in a public place. For example, protect your password input - if sensitive information is on the screen, consider your working location, and do not leave your equipment unattended when travelling.

### 3. General use and privacy

- 3.1 For security and maintenance purposes, authorised individuals within the OU central IT teams may monitor any information, systems and network traffic at any time to ensure compliance with this and other security policies, and the effective operation of the University's systems.
- 3.2 Users of OU computing systems must abide by all applicable laws.
- 3.3 The OU is under a statutory duty to have regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Should the use of OU computer equipment, information and Systems, give rise to a concern that a person may be at risk, this will result in action being taken in accordance with the OU Prevent Principles.
- 3.4 The theft or loss of any OU or personally owned IT equipment containing OU information must be reported to the IT Helpdesk.
- 3.5 OU equipment must be physically secured e.g. with a secure cable lock or locked in a pedestal drawer or cupboard, and must not be left unattended in an insecure environment e.g. overnight in a car or unsecured on top of a desk or table.

#### 4. Protection from malware

- 4.1 All computers and mobile devices connected to OU networks must have the latest security updates installed and operate up-to-date antivirus software. Any exception to this must be agreed with the Head of Information Security.
- 4.2 Files shared, downloaded or received by email may contain malware. If you are in doubt about a file, do not open it and report the issue to the IT Helpdesk.

#### 5. Personal use

- 5.1 Incidental and occasional personal use is permitted, subject to the restrictions contained in this policy. Personal use is allowed so long as the use does not interfere with official business, contravene applicable laws, any other OU policy or detrimentally affect other employees or systems, or harm the OU's reputation.
- 5.2 Subject to personal usage (see 5.1), systems must only be used to fulfil the requirements of your role at the University.
- 5.3 To comply with the Computer Acceptable Use policy, you must also comply with the following information security policies:
  - 5.3.1 Password policy (page 12)
  - 5.3.2 Mobile Device policy (page 23)
  - 5.3.3 Media Disposal Policy (page 20)
  - 5.3.4 Access control (page 16)

# E-mail & Instant Messaging Acceptable Use Policy

## Purpose

This policy defines the security policy for email and instant messaging in order to protect the OU's information and systems.

## Overview

This policy covers general secure practice for email and instant messaging services and should be read in conjunction with the other Information Security policies.

Technical terms used within this document are defined in Appendix A. The terms email and instant messaging are used interchangeably in this document.

It is the responsibility of every email user to understand and follow this policy.

## Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

## Policy

### 1. Confidentiality

- 1.1 You must delete any emails received in error, which were intended for someone else, and any emails that contain confidential or sensitive personal data in line with the OU retention policy.
- 1.2 Before you send a message, make sure the addressees are approved to receive the information contained in the email.
- 1.3 Email content classified as Highly Confidential, must not be sent outside of the University unless approved by a line manager or the information asset owner.
- 1.4 Care must be taken when using email copy (cc), blind copy (bcc) and reply to all functions to avoid confidential information being sent to other recipients in error.
- 1.5 Only OU email addresses must be used to send university emails, personal email addresses must not be used for this purpose.

### 2. Use of messaging services

- 2.1 Care must be taken when using email, as all expressions of fact, intention and opinion via messaging could be held against you and/or the OU in the same way as verbal and written expressions.
- 2.2 Email is subject to release under the relevant sections of the Data Protection and Freedom of Information acts. Deleting emails after a request has been made is an offence.
- 2.3 Do not send messages that might affect or have the potential to affect the performance of the OU systems, network and/or third party in any way. If in doubt please speak to the IT Helpdesk.
- 2.4 The University may automatically block or quarantine any email identified as a potential threat to the organisation.
- 2.5 Personal email accounts must not be used to conduct official university business.
- 2.6 The OU is under a statutory duty to have regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Should the use of OU computer equipment, information and Systems, give rise to a concern that a person may be at risk, this will result in action being taken in accordance with the OU Prevent Principles.

### **3. Unacceptable use**

The following activities are prohibited:

- 3.1 Attempts to read other users' messages without their express permission.
- 3.2 Auto forwarding of OU emails to third party email services.

### **4. Unsolicited email or junk email**

- 4.1 The OU understands that individuals cannot control or prevent some unsolicited emails; however, users must not encourage others to send them such emails.
- 4.2 Some junk emails can be offensive, contain links to inappropriate web sites or contain viruses. Most junk emails will be filtered, however if you do receive emails from untrusted senders, you should delete them.

### **5. Monitoring and privacy**

- 5.1 For security and maintenance purposes, authorised individuals within the OU central IT teams may monitor any information, systems and network traffic at any time to ensure compliance with this and other security policies, and the effective operation of the University's systems.

### **6. General use and ownership**

- 6.1 The OU provides an email and instant messaging service to support University activities, and access is granted to users on this basis. Messages sent or received on University systems form part of the administrative records of the OU.
- 6.2 Incidental and occasional personal use is permitted, subject to the restrictions contained in this policy. Personal use is allowed so long as the use does not interfere with official business, contravene any other OU policy, detrimentally affect other employees or systems, or harm the OU's reputation.

## Internet Acceptable Use Policy

### Purpose

This policy defines the acceptable use of OU internet facilities to protect the OU's information systems.

### Overview

The Internet Acceptable Use Policy covers general secure practice for the use of OU-supplied internet facilities, and should be read in conjunction with the other IT security policies.

Technical terms used within this document are defined in Appendix A.

It is the responsibility of every computer and information user to know and follow this policy.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

#### 1. General principles

- 1.1 Use of the internet is permitted and encouraged to support the goals and objectives of the OU. The internet is to be used in a manner that is consistent with the OU's [Behaviours and Standards at Work Policy](#) available on the HR website.

#### 2. Personal use

- 2.1 Incidental and occasional personal use is permitted, subject to the restrictions contained in this policy. Personal use is allowed so long as the use does not interfere with official business, contravene any other OU policy, detrimentally affect other employees or systems, or harm the OU's reputation.

#### 3. Internet usage

The following activities are prohibited unless they are a specific requirement of your role:

- 3.1 Downloading any software unless your job specifically requires this, the software breaches no information security policies and such downloads are fully licenced.
- 3.2 Downloading any software unless your job specifically requires this and such downloads are fully licenced.
- 3.3 Visiting hacking sites or downloading hacking or evidence-eliminating software.
- 3.4 Intentionally visiting or downloading material from internet sites that are likely to contain obscene, racist, hateful or other objectionable materials.
- 3.5 Downloading password recovery, cracking, security analysis or any other security software unless explicitly authorised by the Head of Information Security.
- 3.6 Intentionally disabling protective controls such as Group Policy, Anti-Virus or the NAC software, interfering with the normal operation of the systems, or changing any settings.
- 3.7 Causing sustained high volume network traffic that substantially hinders others in their use of the network (examples include web streaming).
- 3.8 The OU is under a statutory duty to have regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Should the use of OU computer equipment, information and Systems, give rise to a concern that a person may be at risk, this will result in action being taken in accordance with the OU Prevent Principles.

#### 4. Monitoring and blocking

- 4.1 The OU will use software tools to block sites that are obscene, hateful or have other objectionable materials, or may affect the University's operations.
- 4.2 For security and maintenance purposes, authorised individuals within the OU central IT teams monitor all information, systems and network traffic to ensure compliance with this and other security policies, and the effective operation of the University's systems.

## Password Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the password policy relating to OU information and information systems.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems. For securing mobile devices, please refer to the Mobile Device Policy.

### Policy

- 1.1 Passwords must be communicated separately from the username.
- 1.2 Passwords must be randomly generated and changed on first use.
- 1.3 Where systems capable, passwords must be a minimum of 8 characters and match 3 of the following conditions: uppercase, lowercase, numeric, and non-alphanumeric characters. Dictionary words should not be used to form a password.
- 1.4 Passwords must be set to expire automatically after a maximum of 90 days, prompting the user to create a new password.
- 1.5 Machine to machine accounts, otherwise known as service accounts, are exempt from expiry and consequently must be a minimum password length of 15 characters and match three of the following conditions: uppercase, lowercase, numeric, and non-alphanumeric characters.
- 1.6 User accounts must be set to automatically lockout for a minimum of 30 minutes after 8 failed logon attempts. IT Helpdesk is permitted to re-enable accounts upon request.
- 1.7 Users should be restricted from reusing the previous 12 passwords.
- 1.8 Passwords should be prevented from being changed more than once in a 24 hour period.
- 1.9 Computers and mobile devices must not be left unattended whilst unlocked and must be set to automatically lock after 15 minutes or less.
- 1.10 Passwords must not be unsecured e.g. written on a post-it, shared or printed. Secure Password Management techniques may be used to store passwords.
- 1.11 The same password must not be used for multiple accounts across OU systems.
- 1.12 A password must be changed immediately if it has been discovered that the password has been compromised. If this is not possible, IT Helpdesk must be notified.
- 1.13 Passwords for information systems which process, store and/or transmit payment card information must adhere to all applicable requirements mandated in the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).
- 1.14 Password reset must be implemented using a secure password reset mechanism.
- 1.15 Passwords must be stored using strong cryptographic techniques.
- 1.16 Failed logon error messages must not display the username or password.
- 1.17 Passwords must never traverse any network in plaintext, or utilising weak encryption.

# Policies that apply to your work

## Information Classification Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the classification of OU information so that appropriate controls can be applied.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

- 1.1 The Information Asset Owner of any information set created is responsible for assigning the appropriate information classification in accordance with this policy.
- 1.2 Information asset ownership may be transferred upon agreement with the newly identified Information Asset Owner.
- 1.3 OU information in any form must be managed in accordance with Information Security policies, the Information and Records Management Policy and the Data Protection Code of Practise.
- 1.4 Information Asset Owners should have an understanding of the administrative and technical controls for which they are accountable and responsible, and an awareness of those operated by IT, to safeguard information in accordance with its classification.
- 1.5 Where information has not received an information security classification, the 'Highly Confidential' classification must be assumed and applied.
- 1.6 To align to UK Government Classification Policy, OU Proprietary aligns to Official, OU Highly Confidential aligns to UK Official-Sensitive. OU Highly Restricted aligns to UK Secret. Security Controls must be agreed before the storage of UK Secret information. The OU is not equipped to handle UK Top Secret Information.

### Classification

Classification	Description	OU Specific Example
<b>Highly Restricted</b>	Information that requires controls above those implemented by the University to manage Highly Confidential information.  Typically these controls are required for information types rarely handled by the University. For example, information where its loss could cause widespread loss of life or else threaten the security or economic wellbeing of the country or friendly nations. Information of this nature would require specific controls that must be supplied by the Information Asset Owner, and must be adhered to by users of the information.	No normal line of business information falls into this category.  Examples would include sensitive defence or medical research information.
<b>Highly Confidential</b>	Information that, if made public or inappropriately shared around the organisation, could seriously impede the organisation's operations and is considered critical to its on-going operations or the University's legal obligations under data protection regulations. Information may include accounting information, sensitive business plans, sensitive	Student personal details  Staff Personnel records

	customer information of banks, solicitors and accountants etc., medical records and similar highly sensitive information. Such information should not be copied or sent to third parties without specific authority. Security at this level should be at the highest level for the University's normal operational requirements.	<p>Some types of research information</p> <p>Sensitive business papers</p> <p>Banking details, payment card details (PCI)</p> <p>Organisational Risk registers containing confidential information</p> <p>Financial records</p> <p>Other items covered under data Protection Legislation. Alumni and Donor information</p>
<b>Proprietary</b>	Information of a proprietary nature; procedures, operational work routines, project plans, designs and specifications that define the way in which the organisation operates. Such information is normally for authorised personnel only, for proprietary use. Security at this level is high.	<p>Unit plans</p> <p>Operational plans</p> <p>Software and configuration specifications (unless given by agreement to open source communities)</p> <p>Analysis of anonymised student information.</p>
<b>Internal Use Only</b>	Information not approved for general circulation outside the organisation where its loss would inconvenience the organisation or management but where disclosure is unlikely to result in financial loss or serious damage to credibility. Examples would include internal memos, minutes of meetings and internal project reports. Security at this level is controlled but normal.	<p>Most committee minutes</p> <p>Unit hierarchies</p> <p>Depersonalised student information.</p> <p>Copyright protected Educational Resources</p>
<b>Public Documents</b>	Information in the public domain; annual reports, press statements etc.; which has been approved for public use. Security at this level is minimal.	<p>Marketing information</p> <p>Open Educational Resources</p> <p>Open access research information and publications. University statistic and course information intended for public consumption</p>

## Acknowledged Information Asset Owners

Information asset ownership in the University is recorded by the University Secretary's Office and is described in the [Information roles and responsibilities](#) document guidance from the Academic Governance and Policy unit.

## Access Control Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the Access Control Policy relating to OU information and information systems.

### Scope

**All users** of OU information and information systems and all approvers and administrators of access control configurations on technologies used to store, process and/or transmit OU information. This includes, but is not limited to systems, databases, file-shares, SharePoint, Office 365 groups, shared mail boxes and distribution lists, etc.

### Policy

#### **Users' information and information systems**

- 1.1 By using OU computers all users are agreeing to abide by The Open University Information Security policies. Usage is also subject to the legal requirements of the Computer Misuse Act and the Data Protection Act.
- 1.2 You may only use computers and computer accounts that you have been officially authorised to use.
- 1.3 Users must not intentionally disclose their username to anyone outside of the OU.
- 1.4 Provisioned usernames grant access to OU information and information systems, and are required for a user's job role and responsibilities. Users must only access information for which they have appropriate authorisation.
- 1.5 The OU will actively monitor IT information systems for the detection and prevention of unauthorised access.
- 1.6 It is the responsibility of every user to report any unauthorised access or suspected compromise of their account to the IT Helpdesk Desk and to Information-Security@open.ac.uk.
- 1.7 Information systems which process, store and/or transmit payment card information must adhere to all applicable requirements mandated in the Payment Card Industry Information Security Standard (PCI DSS).

#### **All approvers and administrators of access control configurations on information systems**

- 1.8 Privileged server administrator accounts must only access OU information systems when logged on to an OU managed computer.
- 1.9 Access to OU information and information systems must be granted through the provision of a unique username.
- 1.10 Access Granted to university systems must follow the 'least privilege' principle, only granting access required for the user's job role.
- 1.11 Access to OU information and OU information systems must be granted through an approved documented process and follow best practise guidelines. Each documented process must be reviewed and approved on an annual basis.
- 1.12 Information Owners and Approvers of access requests to information systems must validate user accounts and permissions granted at least annually and an audit trail of validation evidence maintained.
- 1.13 Administrator or 'root' access to OU information systems will be limited to staff whose job roles require it.
- 1.14 Administrator or 'root' accounts must only be used to facilitate tasks where elevated privileges are required.

- 1.15 For compliance, auditing and reporting purposes the use of generic IDs that are shared and not assigned to a specific named individual are restricted and should only be provisioned after an exception request is raised and approved.
- 1.16 Where possible, systems that cannot authenticate directly with active directory should use ADFS to accomplish a single sign-on for all systems.

### **Third party use of OU information and information systems**

- 1.17 Public facing systems which facilitate access to Highly Confidential information will be subject to an Information Security risk assessment to assess if further controls are required such as two-factor authentication.
- 1.18 External access to the OU Office 365 tenancy using Groups, Teams or SharePoint Online may be permitted for sites that have a data classification of Internal Only or Public. External is defined as those without an OUCU and/or an OU email address. Permission for externals must explicitly approved by the Information Asset Owner.

## Data Encryption Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the Data Encryption Policy relating to OU information and information systems.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

- 1.1 The OU will provide appropriate encryption capabilities for use on OU equipment.
- 1.2 Where passwords are used to secure encrypted data, users must adhere to the Password Policy.
- 1.3 Where a password or encryption key needs to be shared to enable another party to access encrypted information, the password or key must be communicated separately and securely by a different method.
- 1.4 Any data written to portable devices and storage from OU IT equipment must be encrypted.
- 1.5 All server management communications must be encrypted.
- 1.6 Authentication data must traverse external networks in an encrypted format, or utilise an encrypted connection to prevent its unauthorised use.
- 1.7 Encrypted connections must follow best practise guidelines and industry standards to ensure that the connection is secure.
- 1.8 Information systems which process, store and/or transmit payment card information must adhere to all applicable requirements mandated in the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).
- 1.9 The table below defines the minimum security controls required relative to the classification of information and should be adhered to at all times.

## Technical Controls

Controls	Highly Restricted (exceptional level of sensitivity)	Highly Confidential (very high level of sensitivity)	Proprietary (high level of sensitivity)	Internal Use (moderate level of sensitivity)	Public (low level of sensitivity)
<i>Data Transmission</i>	<p><b>On OU Network:</b> Mandated by the Information Asset Owner</p> <p><b>Public Network:</b> Mandated by the Information Asset Owner</p>	<p><b>On OU Network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Public Network:</b> Encryption required</p>	<p><b>On OU Network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Public Network:</b> Encryption required</p>	<p><b>On OU Network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Public Network:</b> Encryption not required</p>	<p><b>On OU Network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Public Network:</b> Encryption not required</p>

<i>Data Storage</i>	<p><b>On OU network:</b> Mandated by the Information Asset Owner</p> <p><b>Third party storage:</b> Mandated by the Information Asset Owner</p> <p><b>Portable devices and storage:</b> Mandated by the Information Asset Owner</p>	<p><b>On OU network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Third party storage:</b> Encryption required</p> <p><b>Portable devices and storage:</b> Permitted with encryption for approved devices (See Mobile Device Standard for further information) only with restrictions</p>	<p><b>On OU network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Third party storage:</b> Encryption required</p> <p><b>Portable devices and storage:</b> Permitted with encryption for approved devices (See Mobile Device Standard for further information)</p>	<p><b>On OU network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Third party storage:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Portable devices and storage*:</b> Permitted without encryption</p>	<p><b>On OU network:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Third party storage:</b> Encryption not required</p> <p><b>Portable devices and storage*:</b> Permitted without encryption</p>
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\*Note that section 1.4 implements a stronger safeguard for some data types than stated in the table above to reduce the risk of incorrectly storing sensitive information

## Media Disposal Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the media disposal requirements relating to data stored on OU information systems media, including but not limited to electronic media (e.g. hard drives, USB memory sticks, memory cards, magnetic tape), optical media (e.g. Blu-Ray/DVD/CD) and hard copy.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

- 1.1 Any optical media or hard copy classified as Proprietary or above must be destroyed using a shredder. Please refer to the Information Classification Policy for further details.
- 1.2 Where IT electronic media has been identified for disposal, the IT Service Delivery team must be contacted.
- 1.3 IT electronic media identified for disposal must be tracked in accordance with the Asset Management Lifecycle.
- 1.4 Where IT electronic media has been identified for reuse within the OU then secure sanitisation and re-imaging must be undertaken.
- 1.5 Where IT electronic media has been identified for reuse outside the OU or for disposal, then a secure wipe to UK Government Communications Electronics Security Group (CESG) approved standards, must be completed by a CESG-approved third party.

## Information Security Exceptions Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define how exceptions to the Information Security policies will be managed.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems with the exception of the use of publicly accessible, externally presented systems.

### Policy

- 1.1 Exception to Information Security policies will be considered where there is a justified requirement and the additional risk and/ or cost to mitigate that risk can be balanced with the business benefit.
- 1.2 For an exception to be considered, an exception to security policy request form must be completed, and prior to being sent to Information Security, must be agreed by a business sponsor. The sponsor must understand and support the exception request. A sponsor should be ideally the unit Information Security Liaison Officer (ISLO) or a Senior Faculty Administrator or secondly a Line or Senior manager.
- 1.3 All exception requests will be considered and processed by Information Security.
- 1.4 Approved exception requests are valid for a maximum of 12 months, after which time they will automatically expire. All requests will be logged and requests will be reviewed annually.

## Information Security Incidents Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the Incident Response Policy to minimise the impact to the OU information and information systems.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

- 1.1 All users of OU information systems are required to report information and policy breaches, system weaknesses and security incidents, to the IT Helpdesk and the Information Security team.
- 1.2 Network and system components must be configured to alert system administrators of security incidents as defined in the Network Configuration Standard.
- 1.3 An Information Security Incident Response Plan must be maintained and aligned to unit incident plans, tested by the Information Security Team and circulated to all relevant parties.
- 1.4 The OU will maintain the capability to detect and respond to unauthorised access, disclosure, modification or loss of information on OU information systems.
- 1.5 The Information Security Incident Response Plan and incidents relating to information systems which process, store and/or transmit payment card information must adhere to all applicable requirements in the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).

# Policies that apply to you when working outside the office

## Mobile Device Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the secure use of mobile devices within the OU to protect the University's information and information systems.

### Scope

This policy applies to devices including but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops and removable storage referred to herein as 'mobile devices', either personally owned (Bring Your Own Device – BYOD), or supplied by the OU, which connect to the OU networks or are used to access or store OU classified information.

### Policy

- 1.1 Mobile device users are responsible for the security of OU information and of the device on which OU information is held.
- 1.2 Mobile device users must only store OU information for no longer than is absolutely necessary, not be excessive and be securely deleted.
- 1.3 Mobile device users must not store or transmit OU information to a cloud computing service unless it is within an OU negotiated contract.
- 1.4 Mobile devices must be secured using a passcode, passphrase, PIN number or a pattern lock which is not easily guessable, shared or visible.
- 1.5 Mobile devices must, if configurable, be set to wipe all data after a maximum of ten unsuccessful login attempts and "Find my Phone" or equivalent feature enabled.
- 1.6 Mobile devices must not be left unattended whilst unlocked and must be set to automatically lock after 15 minutes or less.
- 1.7 Mobile devices must have an up-to-date and supported operating system.
- 1.8 Mobile devices must not be 'Jailbroken' or 'rooted', or have otherwise circumvented the installed operating system security requirements.
- 1.9 Information which is stored on the mobile device (including any removable storage) and is classed as Proprietary or above, must be protected via encryption.
- 1.10 Mobile Device Management (MDM) technology and annual random sampling will be used by the OU to enforce this policy and block access if required.
- 1.11 Mobile device users must promptly inform the OU IT Helpdesk, Information Security and Estates Security of any unauthorised access to OU information via a mobile device or if the mobile device is lost or stolen. It is essential that a remote wipe of the device and the use of the "Find my Phone" application is attempted.
- 1.12 The OU cannot see any of your personal data on mobile devices, however the OU reserves the right to monitor and log data traffic transferred between mobile devices and OU systems.
- 1.13 Personally owned mobile devices must not access the OU Staff wireless network, but can access the Eduroam or The Cloud wireless networks.
- 1.14 Personally owned mobile devices must not retain personal information from OU information systems.
- 1.15 Personally owned mobile devices must be returned to the manufacturer's default settings before they are sent for repair, sold, exchanged or disposed. All OU information must be securely wiped as part of this process and the IT Helpdesk informed.

- 1.16 Mobile devices are not permitted to connect to the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) segregated network.
- 1.17 Mobile devices must be sufficiently physically secured e.g. with a secure cable lock or locked in pedestal or cupboard and not left unattended in an insecure environment e.g. overnight in a car or desk.
- 1.18 Mobile devices must not be configured and used as publically accessible internet 'hot spots' while concurrently connected to the OU network.
- 1.19 The OU will use posture checking to ensure that OU-issued devices and personal devices which request to connect to the internal network meet policy requirements.
- 1.20 The OU reserves the right to deny or restrict access to any mobile device that does not meet policy requirements. This is to preserve the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the OU network and its systems.
- 1.21 The OU is the owner of all OU information processed on Mobile Devices, irrespective of who owns the Mobile Device.

## Remote Access Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the policy for remotely accessing devices connected to OU information systems from external networks.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

- 1.1 Any computing device connected to an OU network, either directly or via a remote access technology must not be accessible to remote users, unless authorised by the OU IT dept. Remote access will be restricted to only those IT information systems or resources that have been granted permission. No attempt should be made to circumvent any restrictions.
- 1.2 Remote access connections to OU devices will only be granted and supported by the OU IT department in order to control remote connections into the OU.
- 1.3 Remote access connections into Open University networks, from any equipment is permitted, on the basis that it satisfies OU remote access security criteria.
- 1.4 Remote access to Open University networks must be from IT equipment using a vendor-supported operating system, and up-to-date security patches and antivirus software.
- 1.5 All requests for remote access must be raised with the IT Helpdesk for approval by the Information Security team.
- 1.6 OU user accounts with administrator or 'root' level privileges must not be used for remote access unless specifically required for support purposes.
- 1.7 Tokens and/or PINs that facilitate two-factor authentication must not be stored with related IT equipment.
- 1.8 Remote access will be restricted to only those IT information systems or resources that users have been granted permission. No attempt should be made to circumvent any restrictions.
- 1.9 The OU will actively monitor all remote access sessions for the detection and prevention of unauthorised access.
- 1.10 Resources that are in scope of the Payment Card Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) require stringent security controls. Consequently remote access to PCI-DSS in scope resources is not permitted.
- 1.11 Non-console, remote administrative access onto card data environment (CDE) hosts, should use multi-factor authentication.
- 1.12 Remote access to university systems must not grant greater access privilege than the user would have on campus.
- 1.13 Remote access to systems containing sensitive or personal information must take place from a managed system.

# Policies that apply to you if you work with third party suppliers

## Third Party Services Security Engagement Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the policy for engaging with and managing third party service providers who connect, process, store and/or transmit OU information.

### Scope

Third parties and all users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

#### 1. Engagement

- 1.1 All third parties working on behalf of the OU must be assigned a sponsor.
- 1.2 Consultation with the Information Security Team and/or the Unit Information Security Liaison Officer should be carried out as early as possible in order to ensure that appropriate due diligence is undertaken, and to identify if a risk assessment is required to ensure that the University is not exposed to undue risk.
- 1.3 When engaging with a third party for the first time, a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) must be signed before any OU information is disclosed.

All third parties engaged to provide services to the OU must have a contract in place. Third party engagement must comply with the University's [Procurement Policy and process](#)

- 1.4 The contract must include the following:
  - Confidentiality clause
  - Agreement to follow all OU Information Security policies
  - Right to audit clause
  - Secure disposal of OU information upon termination of contract.
- 1.5 All third parties who process personal data on behalf of the University must have a data processor clause written into the commercial contract. The Data Protection Office should be contacted for further information. All external transfers of personal data from the University to the supplier and from the supplier to other approved parties must be recorded by the supplier and the Data Protection Office.
- 1.6 The sponsor is responsible for ensuring that; the appropriate agreements and contracts are in place; the third party access rights to information and information systems are provisioned in accordance with the Information Asset Owner's approval and that where software development is outsourced to a third party, requirements of the Secure Software Development Policy are implemented.
- 1.7 All contracts with third parties for the supply of services to the University will be monitored and reviewed to ensure that information security requirements are being satisfied.

- 1.8 Third parties must notify the OU of any security incidents impacting OU information or information systems within the terms specified in the Service Level agreement (SLA)

## **2. Third party access connections or interfaces to OU systems**

- 2.1. All third party connection requests must have approval from the following; Sponsor, Information Asset Owner, IT Service Delivery, and Information Security before being granted.
- 2.1. Where third party access is granted, connectivity must be provisioned through approved OU solutions, restricted to the resources required to carry out the work.
- 2.2. Third party connections must be terminated when no longer required and may be terminated in the event of a security breach.
- 2.3. The OU will monitor third party connections for the detection and prevention of unauthorised access.
- 2.4. A central register of all third party connections will be maintained by IT Service and Support and will be reviewed and updated quarterly or as necessary.
- 2.5. Third party access to information systems which process, store and/or transmit payment card information must adhere to all applicable requirements mandated in the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).

# Policies that apply to you if you take card payments

## Payment Card Policy

### Purpose

This document defines the Payment Card Policy relating to OU information and information systems.

### Scope

All users of OU information and information systems.

### Policy

- 1.1 The storage of cardholder data as defined by the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) is strictly prohibited.
- 1.2 Information systems which process and/or transmit payment card information must adhere to all applicable requirements mandated in the PCI DSS.
- 1.3 It is the responsibility of all project managers and sponsors to ensure that projects are compliant with the PCI DSS Standard where applicable.
- 1.4 Wherever possible, systems should restrict interfacing directly with the cardholder data environment (CDE) to limit the necessary scope of PCI DSS compliance.
- 1.5 Card payments may only be accepted using methods approved by OU Finance Unit.
- 1.6 Each person who has access to payment card data is responsible for protecting the information.
- 1.7 Any suspected or actual information security breach resulting in the compromise of payment card data must be reported immediately to the IT Helpdesk.
- 1.8 The payment card Primary Account Number (PAN), which is typically 16 digits in length, must never be sent and/or received via email or instant messaging and should be automatically detected and blocked wherever possible.
- 1.9 A list of all authorised devices and personnel with access to the PCI DSS in scope resources must be maintained by IT and OU Finance Unit.
- 1.10 Non-console, remote administrative access into the card data environment (CDE), must use encryption and multi-factor authentication.