



Information Security Policy

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1 Introduction

This document defines the information security policy of Platform Housing Group.

As a modern, forward-looking business, Platform Housing Group recognises at senior levels the need to ensure that its business operates smoothly and without interruption for the benefit of its customers and other stakeholders.

In order to provide such a level of continuous operation, Platform Housing Group has implemented an Information Security Management System (ISMS) in line with the International Standard for Information Security, ISO/IEC 27001. This standard defines the requirements for an ISMS based on internationally recognised best practice.

The operation of the ISMS has many benefits for the business, including:

- Protection of revenue streams and company profitability
- Ensuring the supply of services to customers
- Compliance with legal and regulatory requirements

Platform Housing Group has decided to maintain full certification to ISO/IEC 27001 in order that the effective adoption of information security best practice may be validated by an independent third party, a Registered Certification Body (RCB).

This policy applies to all systems, people and processes that constitute the organization's information systems, including board members, directors, employees, suppliers and other third parties who have access to Platform Housing Group systems.

The following supporting documents are relevant to this information security policy and provide additional information about how it is applied:

- *Risk Assessment and Treatment Process*
- *Statement of Applicability*
- *Supplier Information Security Evaluation Process*
- *Internet Acceptable Use Policy*
- *Cloud Computing Policy*
- *Mobile Device Policy*
- *BYOD Policy*
- *Home Working Policy*
- *Access Control Policy*
- *User Access Management Process*
- *Cryptographic Policy*
- *Physical Security Policy*
- *Anti-Malware Policy*
- *Backup Policy*
- *Logging and Monitoring Policy*
- *Software Policy*
- *Technical Vulnerability Management Policy*

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- *Network Security Policy*
- *Electronic Messaging Policy*
- *Secure Development Policy*
- *Information Security Policy for Supplier Relationships*
- *Availability Management Policy*
- *IP and Copyright Compliance Policy*
- *Data Retention Policy*
- *Data Protection Policy*
- *Clear Desk and Clear Screen Policy*
- *Social Media Policy*

2 Information security policy

2.1 Information security requirements

A clear definition of the requirements for information security within Platform Housing Group will be agreed and maintained with the business so that all ISMS activity is focussed on the fulfilment of those requirements. Statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements will also be documented and input to the planning process. Specific requirements about the security of new or changed systems or services will be captured as part of the design stage of each project.

It is a fundamental principle of the Platform Housing Group Information Security Management System that the controls implemented are driven by business needs and this will be regularly communicated to all staff through team meetings and briefing documents.

2.2 Framework for setting objectives

A regular cycle will be used for the setting of objectives for information security. These objectives will be based upon a clear understanding of the business requirements, informed by the management review process during which the views of relevant interested parties may be obtained.

Information security objectives will be documented for an agreed time period, together with details of how they will be achieved. These will be evaluated and monitored as part of management reviews to ensure that they remain valid. If amendments are required, these will be managed through the change management process.

In accordance with ISO/IEC 27001 the reference controls detailed in Annex A of the standard will be adopted where appropriate by Platform Housing Group. These will be reviewed on a regular basis in the light of the outcome from risk assessments and in line with information security risk treatment plans. For details of which Annex A controls have been implemented and which have been excluded please see the *Statement of Applicability*.

2.3 Continual improvement of the ISMS

Platform Housing Group policy regarding continual improvement is to:

- Continually improve the effectiveness of the ISMS
- Enhance current processes to bring them into line with good practice as defined within ISO/IEC 27001 and related standards
- Achieve ISO/IEC 27001 certification and maintain it on an on-going basis
- Increase the level of proactivity (and the stakeholder perception of proactivity) with regard to information security

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- Make information security processes and controls more measurable in order to provide a sound basis for informed decisions
- Review relevant metrics on an annual basis to assess whether it is appropriate to change them, based on collected historical data
- Obtain ideas for improvement via regular meetings and other forms of communication with interested parties.
- Review ideas for improvement at regular management meetings in order to prioritise and assess timescales and benefits

Ideas for improvements may be obtained from any source including employees, customers, suppliers, IT staff, risk assessments and service reports. Once identified they will be recorded and evaluated as part of management reviews.

2.4 Management and Employee Responsibilities

Managers are responsible for ensuring that their permanent employees, temporary employees and contractors:

- Have completed assigned Cyber Security and GDPR training within the prescribed timescales
- Are aware of the information security policies applicable to them and their teams
- Know how to access advice on information security matters.

Managers shall be responsible for the security of their physical environments where information is processed or stored.

Employees shall be responsible for compliance with information security procedures and the operational security of the information systems and assets they use to process and store data. They shall also ensure that the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the information they use is maintained to the highest standard. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

2.5 Information security policy areas

Platform Housing Group defines policy in a wide variety of information security-related areas which are described in detail in a comprehensive set of policy documentation that accompanies this overarching information security policy.

Each of these policies is defined and agreed by one or more people with competence in the relevant area and, once formally approved, is communicated to an appropriate audience, both within and external to, the organization.

The table below shows the individual policies within the documentation set and summarises each policy's content and the target audience of interested parties.

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POLICY TITLE	AREAS ADDRESSED	TARGET AUDIENCE
Internet Acceptable Use Policy	Business use of the Internet, personal use of the Internet, Internet account management, security and monitoring and prohibited uses of the Internet service.	Users of the Internet service
Cloud Computing Policy	Due diligence, signup, setup, management and removal of cloud computing services.	Employees involved in the procurement and management of cloud services
Mobile Device Security Policy	Care and security of mobile devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones, whether provided by the organization for business use.	Users of company-provided mobile devices
BYOD Policy	Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) considerations where personnel wish to make use of their own mobile devices to access corporate information.	Users of personal devices for restricted business use
Home Working Policy	Information security considerations in establishing and running a homeworking site and arrangement e.g. physical security and equipment	Management and employees involved in setting up and maintaining a homeworking site
Access Control Policy	User registration and deregistration, provision of access rights, external access, access reviews, password policy, user responsibilities and system and application access control.	Employees involved in setting up and managing access control
Cryptographic Policy	Risk assessment, technique selection, deployment, testing and review of cryptography, and key management	Employees involved in setting up and managing the use of cryptographic technology and techniques
Physical Security Policy	Secure areas, paper and equipment security and equipment lifecycle management	All employees
Anti-Malware Policy	Firewalls, anti-virus, spam filtering, software installation and scanning, vulnerability management, user awareness training, threat monitoring and alerts, technical reviews and malware incident management.	Employees responsible for protecting the organization's infrastructure from malware
Backup Policy	Backup cycles, cloud backups, off-site storage, documentation, recovery testing and protection of storage media	Employees responsible for designing and implementing backup regimes
Logging and Monitoring Policy	Settings for event collection. protection and review	Employees responsible for protecting the organization's infrastructure from attacks
Software Policy	Purchasing software, software registration, installation and removal, in-house software development and use of software in the cloud.	All employees
Technical Vulnerability Management Policy	Vulnerability definition, sources of information, patches and updates, vulnerability assessment, hardening, awareness training and vulnerability disclosure.	Employees responsible for protecting the organization's infrastructure from malware

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POLICY TITLE	AREAS ADDRESSED	TARGET AUDIENCE
Network Security Policy	Network security design, including network segregation, perimeter security, wireless networks and remote access; network security management, including roles and responsibilities, logging and monitoring and changes.	Employees responsible for designing, implementing and managing networks
Electronic Messaging Policy	Sending and receiving electronic messages, monitoring of electronic messaging facilities and use of email.	Users of electronic messaging facilities
Secure Development Policy	Business requirements specification, system design, development and testing and outsourced software development.	Employees responsible for designing, managing and writing code for bespoke software developments
Information Security Policy for Supplier Relationships	Due diligence, supplier agreements, monitoring and review of services, changes, disputes and end of contract.	Employees involved in setting up and managing supplier relationships
Availability Management Policy	Availability requirements and design, monitoring and reporting, non-availability, testing availability plans and managing changes.	Employees responsible for designing systems and managing service delivery
IP and Copyright Compliance Policy	Protection of intellectual property, the law, penalties and software license compliance.	All employees
Data Retention Policy	Retention period for specific record types, record retrieval, destruction and review.	Employees responsible for creation and management of records
Data Protection Policy	Applicable data protection legislation, definitions and requirements.	Employees responsible for designing and managing systems using personal data
Clear Desk and Clear Screen Policy	Security of information shown on screens, printed out and held on removable media.	All employees
Social Media Policy	Guidelines for how social media should be used when representing the organization and when discussing issues relevant to the organization.	All employees
Acceptable Use Policy	Employee commitment to organizational information security policies.	All employees
Information Asset Management Policy	This document sets out the rules for how information assets must be managed from an information security perspective.	All employees

2.6 Application of information security policy

The policy statements made in this document and in the set of supporting policies listed above have been reviewed and approved by the top management of Platform Housing Group and must be complied with. Failure by an employee to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action being taken.

Questions regarding any Platform Housing Group policy should be addressed in the first instance to the employee's immediate line manager.