

D2 – Evaluate A Security Policy

I will be evaluating the Information Security policy of Bath University. It is easily accessible at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/aboutbucs/policies-guidelines/policies-it-security.html>

The policy is split into 2 main sections, which are then divided into sub-sections.

The first section is an introduction to the policy, outlining the areas it covers and its purpose.

This is useful for ensuring that the purpose of the policy is clear to readers, and will make dealing with breaches of the policy easier.

The policy then goes on to outline definitions for various types of data and levels of restriction. This is good practice to ensure that people follow the policy, as if all data is treated as highly restricted, it becomes annoying for users and they may be tempted to ignore the policy in favour of getting work done quickly.

Section 2.6 deals with third-party compliance, which means any third besides the university dealing with the data must also agree the policy.

Section 3 is about user responsibilities, and is arguably most important part of the policy. It includes a list of rules and procedures to follow to protect IT systems, such as using a strong password that is not re-used anywhere else, and not using personal systems for storing university data.

Users of the systems will be interested in this section as applies to them specifically. However, in section 3.2, the policy goes on to outline the responsibilities of other members of staff, such as Data Stewards and Data Custodians, who are responsible for ensuring that physical security is maintained and enforcing the policy.

The policy also lists the responsibilities of the University itself, such as auditing safety procedures, upholding and enforcing policies, taking steps to fix damage, and ensuring available IT resources are sufficient for keeping information securely.

This policy is clear and comprehensive, often referring to other policies and protocols for further detail on a particular area. It states the roles and responsibilities of different people within the university.

One issue with this policy is that it mostly refers to other sections and only a few sections are actually relevant to everyday users.