



Information Security Policy

ANS GROUP POLICY STATEMENT

Information security is vitally important to ANS Group because of our complete dependence on information, IT systems and communications, and hence the need to protect our valuable information assets from harm. In addition, there are legal and regulatory obligations concerning our governance of information security. In short, information security directly supports ANS Group's business objectives.

Recognising the importance of protecting our information assets, the Executive have mandated the implementation of a comprehensive information security framework throughout ANS Group based on ISO/IEC 27001:2005, the ISO/IEC standard that embodies an internationally accepted suite of good practice information security controls.

The scope of our accreditation covers our Manchester Head Quarters with the relevant clauses detailed in our statement of applicability found in our Information Security Management System.

The following seven fundamental information security guiding principles underpin our policy:

1. Our information security management system conforms to accepted best practice as defined by ISO/IEC 27001:2005 and other relevant information security standards.
2. Information is a critical business asset of ANS Group and must be protected to a degree appropriate to its vulnerability and its importance or value to the organisation. This includes our information assets and those placed in our care.
3. Information security controls are necessary to protect our information assets against unacceptable risks to their confidentiality (e.g. preventing unauthorised disclosure of sensitive corporate or personal information), integrity (e.g. ensuring that human errors and programming bugs do not reduce the completeness or accuracy of our data) and availability (e.g. minimising unplanned system downtime consequent interruption of critical business processes).

4. We invest wisely in proven information security controls where justified on the basis of lifecycle cost-benefit assessment and risk analysis. Our goal is not to completely eliminate information security risks but to minimise them in the most cost-effective manner, offsetting the cost of controls against the anticipated reduction in losses due to avoiding or mitigating security incidents.

5. Information security is pervasive throughout the entire organisation. It is an inherent part of our IT and communications architecture and a component of our operational and management processes. In short, we are all responsible for information security.

6. Information security is a core element of corporate governance. It is closely related to aspects such as IT management, physical site security, risk management, legal and regulatory compliance and business continuity. It supports various obligations to our workers, business partners and to the community at large.

7. Information security is a business enabler that allows us to enter more confidently into and maintain business relationships, markets and situations that would otherwise be too risky. By minimising net losses resulting from information security incidents, it supports our financial bottom line. It also enhances our corporate image as a trustworthy, open, honest and ethical organisation.

We will measure the success of our information security policies through staff training, staff awareness of information security requirements and the reduction of risk through measured risk treatment plans. We will do this in order to ensure the continuous improvement of our IS systems and also to ensure that the company continues to operate efficiently and effectively, meeting the needs of the business, customers and other key-stakeholders.

"Information is an extremely valuable and important corporate asset that requires protection against risks that would threaten its confidentiality, integrity and/or availability. Suitable information security controls must therefore be selected and implemented. ANS Group's security controls are based on ISO/IEC standards that document internationally-accepted good practice. Along with my colleagues on the senior management team, I fully endorse this information security policy and expect the controls to be implemented consistently throughout ANS Group PLC."

Paul Sweeney, Managing Director

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