

NEWSGROUPS POLICY

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Policy /Procedures or Guidelines

The aim of this document is to outline policy and procedures relating to the use of the Internet news service at the Manchester Metropolitan University by students and staff.

1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all staff and students of the Manchester Metropolitan University.

1.3 Roles & Responsibilities

The policy will be implemented by IT Services.

2 Policy/Procedure/Guidelines

2.1 Access to Newsgroups

- Provision of access to a newsgroup which is known to be likely to contain unlawful material may well expose the service provider to legal action. Many newsgroups are known to be likely to contain unlawful material. The majority of these are already filtered out by UKERNA at the national Janet feed, but new groups are being created all the time.
- Any newsgroup brought to the attention of the Head of IT Services which is considered likely to contain illegal material will be filtered out. The information will also be passed on to UKERNA for them to consider filtering at a national level.
- By default, students will not have access to the ALT.BINARIES.* nor ALT.PICTURES.* hierarchies. Specific groups within these hierarchies may, however, be made available to named students or to all students at the recommendation of an appropriate member of staff.
- Staff will have access to all newsgroups, with the exception of those filtered out by UKERNA or by the University for legal reasons

2.2 Posting to Newsgroups

- Posting to newsgroups will be regarded in a similar way to the sending of Email
- The University has neither the resources nor the inclination to monitor all postings, however, it will act swiftly in respect of any abuse of the service brought to its attention, using the existing disciplinary procedures where appropriate. Examples of such abuses would include material which:
 - is obscene
 - is threatening
 - is abusive
 - breaches copyright
 - incites racial or religious hatred
 - makes statements on behalf of the University without appropriate sponsorship
 - breaches the UKERNA guidelines on acceptable use of JANET

3 Version Number and Approval Dates

Version	1.1	Author Name & Job Title	Ros Cusack Campus IT Services Manager
Approved Date		Approved by: (Board/Committee)	ICT Strategy Group
Date for Review:	May 2013		