

An introduction to Bristol City Council's secure email system for external users



HOW TO SEND SECURE EMAIL TO BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW

Bristol City Council has a secure email system. This enables staff, citizens and the council's external partners to send and receive secure messages.

This document explains how external users and the public can use this system.

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- A. How do external users send secure email to BCC staff?
- B. How do BCC staff send secure emails to citizens and partner organisations?
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A. HOW DO EXTERNAL USERS SEND SECURE EMAIL TO BCC STAFF?

External users (both individuals and organisations), can initiate a secure email exchange with BCC staff. The first thing you need to do is register on the system at:

<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/securemail>

The first screen you see prompts you to enter your email address:

A screenshot of a web form titled 'Initiate Secure Email'. The form has a blue header with the title. Below the header is the Bristol City Council logo. A horizontal line separates the logo from the main content. The text 'Please provide your email address to proceed.' is displayed. Below this is a label 'Email Address:' followed by a text input field. At the bottom right of the form is a blue button with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'Continue'.

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Once you've done this, click on **Continue**, then add your name and set up a password:

Registration



Email Address: tinkywinky@gmail.com

First Name:

Last Name:

Password:

Confirm Password:

[Continue](#)

You are then asked to activate your account. This is similar to the process used when registering for an online shopping account, where an email is sent to your email address to verify that it belongs to you:

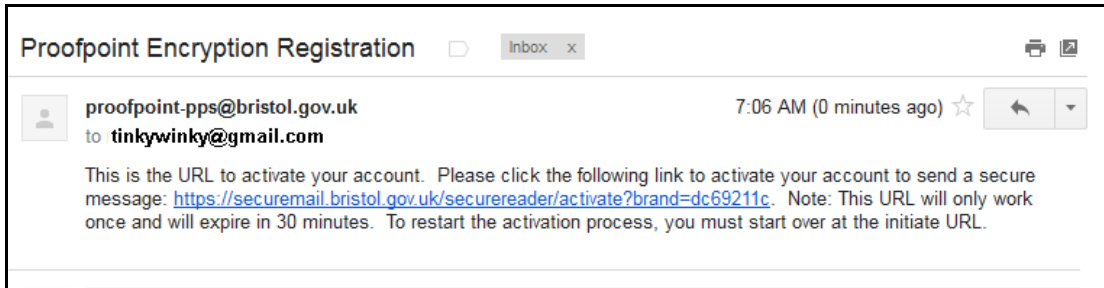
Activation Request Sent

A verification message was sent to your email address which contains a URL you must use to activate your account. Once active, you will be able to send your secure message.

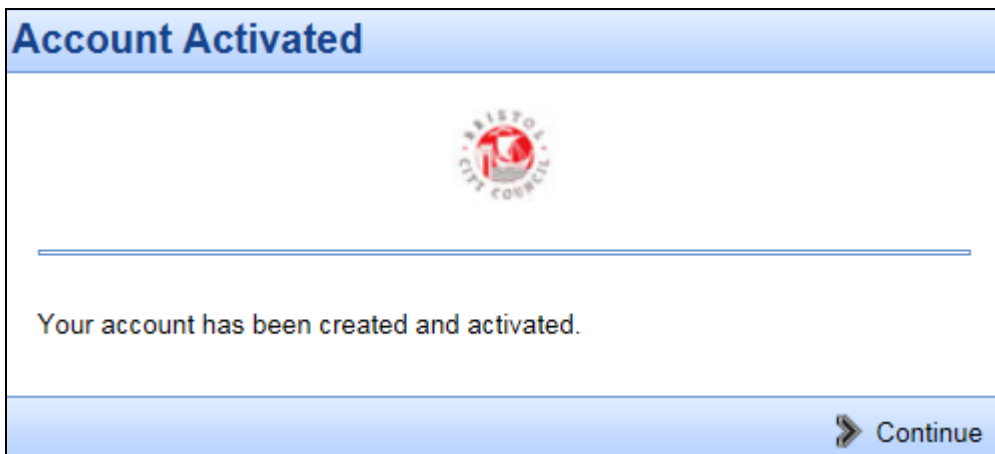
If you do not receive this message within a few moments, please check your spam folder or other filtering tools you may be using as this activation message sometimes gets blocked.

You must click on the activation link in the email within 30 minutes of receiving the email itself:

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When the activation is complete, a registration confirmation appears:



You now have an account on the secure email server, and are logged into it.

To compose your secure message, click on **Continue**

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A screenshot of the secure email system interface. At the top left is the Bristol City Council logo. Below it is a blue bar with a 'Send' button. The main area is a light green form with fields for 'To:', 'Cc:', 'Subject:', and 'Attachments:'. The 'Attachments:' field has a paperclip icon and the text 'Attach a file'. Below the form is a blue toolbar with various icons and dropdown menus for 'Format', 'Font', and 'Size'. The main text area is empty.

then write your email as normal:

A screenshot of the secure email system interface, similar to the previous one but with the fields filled. The 'To:' field contains 'freda.bloggs@bristol.gov.uk'. The 'Subject:' field contains 'Meeting tomorrow'. The 'Attachments:' field has a paperclip icon and the text 'Attach a file'. The main text area contains the text 'Dear Ms Bloggs' and 'I'm writing to....'. The toolbar and other elements are the same as in the previous screenshot.

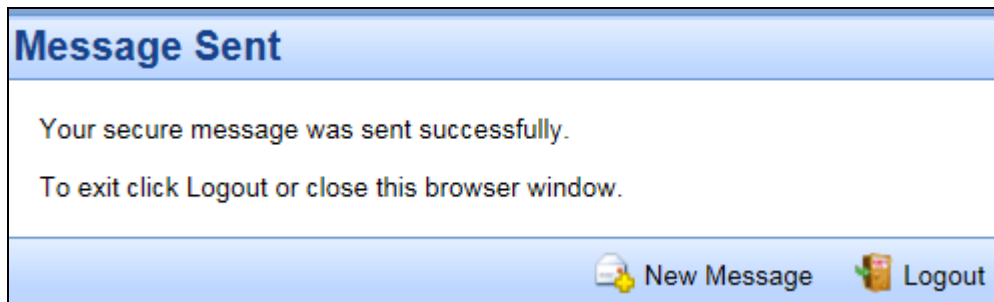
When you have finished, click on **Send**. The email is then sent from the secure

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server to the BCC staff member's account.

You can now send another secure message or log out:



Please note:

1. If you simply close the tab in your browser that you've been working in **without choosing the Logout option first**, you will not be logged out of the system.
2. You can only send secure emails to people with a **bristol.gov.uk** email address or an email address in an organisation that Bristol City Council is associated with, eg, **bristolpartnership.org**
3. Attachments to your secure emails should not exceed 10 MB.
4. When your email arrives in the inbox of the Bristol City Council staff member, the email title includes the prefix **[encrypt]**. The staff member then knows that a reply to your email must also be sent securely.



B. HOW DO BCC STAFF SEND SECURE EMAILS TO CITIZENS AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS?

BCC staff send the email message, including any attachments, to the secure server.

The system then sends a standard email to the recipient (you in this example). This email contains an introductory message and a link to the secure server where the message is stored:

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You have been sent a secure message by Bristol City Council.


[Click here](#) to read the message. The message will only be accessible for the next 14 days.

If you are having difficulty using the above link, please open the attachment.

[More Info](#)



Disclaimer: This email and its content are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. Please notify the sender if you have received this email in error or simply delete it.

Secured by Proofpoint Encryption, Copyright © 2009-2012 Proofpoint, Inc. All rights reserved.

 **SecureMessageAtt.html**
12K [View](#) [Download](#)

When you click on the '**Click here**' link, you are transferred to the login screen for the secure server:


Login



Log in to read your secure message.

Email Address:

Password:

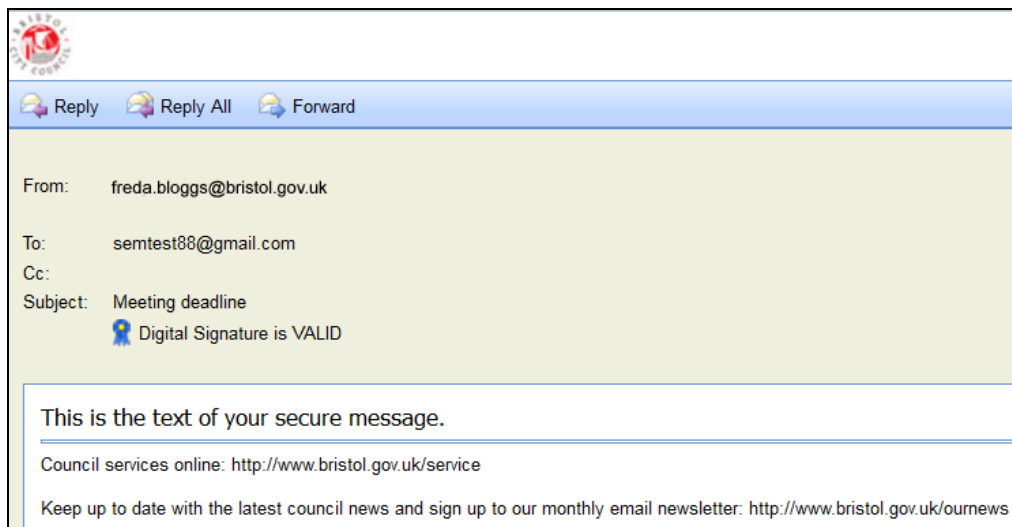
 [Forgot Password](#)  [Continue](#)

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If you have already registered on the server, eg, if you had previously sent a secure message to BCC, you log in using those details. Otherwise, you register for an account as described earlier.

You will then be taken to the secure email itself:

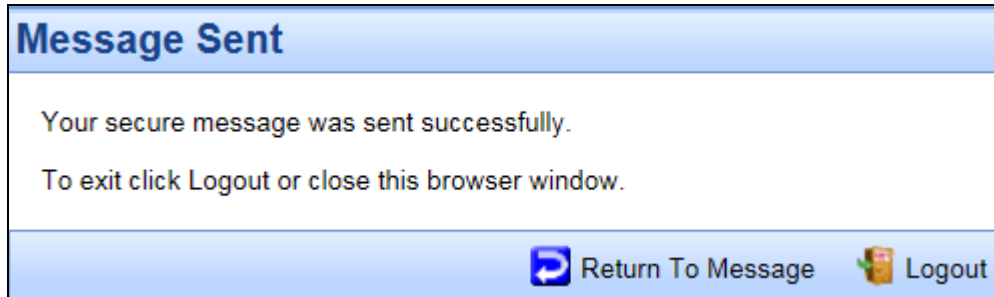


You can reply to the email from here, but are restricted to replying to people with a **bristol.gov.uk** email address or an email address in an organisation that Bristol City Council is associated with, eg, **bristolpartnership.org**

If you do send a reply, the system automatically adds the prefix **[encrypt]** to the email subject. This is visible to the BCC recipient.

After replying, you are prompted to log out or return to the message:

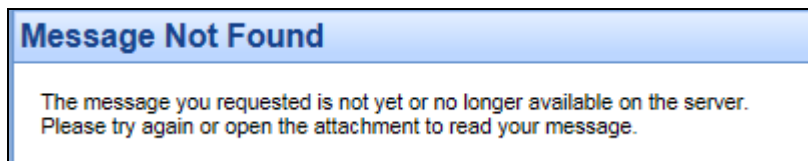
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As described earlier, it's recommended that you log out. Simply closing the tab in the browser doesn't log you out.

Please note:

A secure email that has been sent to you sometimes reaches your inbox a few seconds earlier than its linked secure message reaches the Proofpoint server. When this happens, you will receive this message when you click on the '**Click here**' link:



If you wait a few seconds, then try the link again, your message should then be available.

C. ON-GOING COMMUNICATIONS VIA SECURE EMAIL

If a secure email communication is taking place, with the conversation going back and forth between a BCC user and an external user, the messages will continue to be sent securely, as long as the external user logs into the secure server each time to send their reply.

D. TROUBLESHOOTING

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(i) Forgotten password

If you forget your password, you can reset it using the “Forgot Password” facility:

Login



Log in to read your secure message.

Email Address:

Password:

[Forgot Password](#) [Continue](#)

This sends you a link from where you can reset your password:




Password Reset Request Sent

A password reset message was sent to your email address. Please click the link in that message to reset your password.

If you do not receive the password reset message within a few moments, please check your spam folder or other filtering tools.

Proofpoint Encryption Password Reset

Inbox x

 **proofpoint-pps@bristol.gov.uk** 9:18 AM (5 minutes ago) ☆  


to me ▾

This is the URL to reset your password. Please click the following link to reset your password to read a secure message: <https://securemail.bristol.gov.uk/securereader/activate?token=SNHbcTJn939ln6agoLoL&brand=dc69211c&reset=true>. Note: This URL will only work once and will expire in 30 minutes.

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Enter New Password



Enter a new password.

Email Address: semtest88@gmail.com

New password:

Confirm password:

(ii) Locked Account

If you enter the wrong password 20 times, the system will lock your account, and you will have to wait one hour before you are able to reset your password using the method described above.

(iii) Other issues

If you have other problems using the secure email system, you should inform the sender at BCC or your intended recipient at BCC, whichever is appropriate. They will then investigate the issue on your behalf.