

To interested parties

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## Open letter consultation: proposed new name for Newman University

**Newman University has applied to the Office for Students (OfS) to change its name to ‘Birmingham Newman University.’ This open letter invites views on whether the proposed new name is, or has the potential to be, confusing or misleading.**

The OfS has the power to approve the use of the word ‘university’ in a registered higher education provider’s name under section 77 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and section 39 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998.<sup>1</sup>

The OfS has published guidance for registered higher education providers that wish to use either ‘university’ or ‘university college’ as part of their name (‘university title’ or ‘university college title’).<sup>2</sup> In that guidance, the OfS states that it will consult on a provider’s proposed new name and assess the extent to which the proposed name is confusing or misleading.

Newman University (<https://www.newman.ac.uk>) is an OfS-registered higher education provider.<sup>3</sup> It received approval in 2013 under the provisions of the Companies Act (2006) to use ‘university’ in its name and proposes to change its name to ‘Birmingham Newman University.’

The purpose of this open letter is to consult, in line with Regulatory advice 13, on whether Newman University’s proposed name ‘Birmingham Newman University’ is, or may be, confusing or misleading.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/13/section/77> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/30/section/39>.

<sup>2</sup> Regulatory advice 13: How to apply for university college and university title (OfS 2019.08). Available at: [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-13-how-to-apply-for-university-college-and-university-title/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-13-how-to-apply-for-university-college-and-university-title/).

<sup>3</sup> The OfS Register. See: [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/).

We are inviting views on the following questions:

1. Considering Newman University's proposed new name of 'Birmingham Newman University,' in your views is it, or does it have the potential to be, confusing or misleading?
2. If you consider that Newman University's proposed new name 'Birmingham Newman University' is, or has the potential to be, confusing or misleading, can you explain why you think this and provide any evidence to support your view?

### **Who should respond to this consultation?**

We welcome responses from anyone with an interest in the proposed new name for Newman University.

We are particularly (but not only) interested in hearing from:

- Existing or potential future students of Newman University
- Other providers of education with a similar geographic descriptor or based in the same geographic area
- Professional organisations and local employer groups that work with Newman University
- Local, regional, or other bodies with similar names to the proposed name 'Birmingham Newman University'
- Local emergency services to Newman University
- Higher education membership groups.

### **How to respond**

The consultation closes at **noon on Thursday 10 November 2022**.

Please submit your response by completing the **online form** at:

<https://survey.officeforstudents.org.uk/s/newmanname/>

If you require this document or the online form in an alternative format, need assistance with the online form, or have questions about this consultation, please contact us on 0117 931 7305 or at [regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk).

### **How we will treat your response**

The OfS will process any personal data received in accordance with all applicable data protection laws (see our full privacy policy).<sup>4</sup> Further information is provided within the survey.

We may need to disclose or publish information that you provide in the performance of our functions or disclose it to other organisations for the purposes of their functions. Information

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<sup>4</sup> See: [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/ofs-privacy/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/ofs-privacy/).

(including personal data) may also need to be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation (such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Data Protection Act 2018, and Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

Yours sincerely

**David Smy**  
**Director of Monitoring and Intervention**