



Careers in the Private Security Industry

Guidelines for Entry, Training and Careers in Security Guarding and Related Employment

Membership of IPSA

Persons seeking a career in the security industry should consider membership of an appropriate professional body which will enable them to take advantage of the services and training opportunities that are available to members. IPSA, founded in 1958, is one such body specifically focused on the development of the security officer as a professional. Information about membership of the Association may be found on the web site or by contacting the Association Office (for details see below). IPSA is also a member of the Security Regulation Alliance and the Joint Security Industry Council. Applications forms for individual or company membership may be accessed and printed off from the web site for completion and forwarding to the IPSA office.

The International Professional Security Association

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EMPLOYMENT IN THE NON-TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE SECURITY INDUSTRY

The Private Security Industry is in part subject to regulation and licensing under the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Traditionally it recruited from those leaving the armed services and police and continues to do so. However, with the increased diversification and sophistication of security requirements and the application of modern technology to all aspects of security, CCTV surveillance and crime prevention, including the introduction of community police support and street wardens, new and exciting opportunities for employment, training and career development have emerged. This offers varied and interesting career choices for men and women who are motivated to regard security as an important profession.

Regulation of the industry

Currently in the UK the following, if provided on contract, must hold a licence issued by the Security Industry Authority (SIA): Door Supervisors, Vehicle Immobilisers (Northern Ireland only), Security Operatives and Supervisors, Key holders, Cash in Transit operatives, Close Protection personnel and public space CCTV operatives. The Authority not only issues licences but also sets standards for training and other criteria for the grant of licences. For the time being personnel who are employed directly by the owners of a business or organisation (“in-house”) are exempt from licensing. In future years other sectors of the industry e.g. Private Investigators and Consultants may be brought into the scheme. **It is an offence to work in a licensed job without holding a licence [Penalty £5000 fine or 6 months imprisonment]**. Employers can also be prosecuted.

Types of work: The range of work available includes:

Licensed activities (Applicants must be at least **18** years of age):

- **Door Supervision:** (Stewards in Scotland) engaged in security of places of public entertainment and sport such as night clubs, pubs etc. licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.
- **Security Guarding:** on contract at commercial and residential premises, schools, hospitals, museums, airports, construction sites, shopping centres and many other locations.
- **Cash & Valuables in Transit:** collection and delivery on contract of cash and high value cargoes and escort operations.
- **Key holding:** services provided on contract.
- **Close Protection:** contracted close protection staff (bodyguards) responsible for the safety of individuals and their families.
- **Public Space Surveillance CCTV:** contracted CCTV operators in retail and local authority CCTV control rooms.
- **Event Stewarding:** Door Supervisor or Security Guard licences required if performing a licensed activity whether on contract or otherwise, at a venue/event that is licensed under the Licensing Act 2003, or not so licensed, respectively.

Other activities — currently not subject to licensing:

- **Security Guarding:** as an in-house activity.
- **Event Stewarding:** stewarding at major venues of sports and entertainment both indoors and outdoors that does not involve licensable activities. (Certain circumstances can lead to individuals still requiring a licence.)
- **Private Investigators:** investigation of losses, fraud and other investigation work.
- **Consultants:** risk assessment and surveying of buildings and enterprises; security consultancy work etc.

New directions and opportunities — the extended police/security family

The employment of police community support officers and wardens working together with police in patrolling for the purposes of crime prevention and the creation of a secure environment in which people may live and work, opens fresh opportunities for employment in the wider security community and may lead to service in the police and other support services. Police community support officers and wardens are recruited by the various Local Authorities, Police Services and private companies. Enquiries should be made at local job centres and recruitment agencies.

Casual and Part time work

There are some opportunities for part time employment. Casual and part time workers must also be licensed as appropriate. Experience may be gained by short term working on event stewarding at major events such as music festivals. Vetting procedures will be followed and the organisers will require evidence of previous training or provide it for the event. Contracts of service should be obtained and examined carefully in order to ensure that adequate protection is available by insurance and other measures to safeguard the employees when carrying out these duties. Event stewards may be exempt from licensing, but not if they are deemed to be doing front line security jobs.

Are you suitable?

The Security Officer is now often seen in the streets or is the first person seen when entering a public or private building or venue. Therefore a smart appearance is very important, as is a courteous and polite manner, the ability to listen carefully and to speak clearly, and to create a positive impression. Common sense, a willingness to obey rules and procedures, and a proper sense of responsibility will almost certainly be found in all those who are successful in making a career in this industry. Persons with learning difficulties or English as a second language, may require further training or language tuition before being eligible for employment, also persons who are unable to satisfy the vetting requirements due to recent arrival from other countries may be unable secure a position in security related work. You must also have current permission to work in the UK.

Meeting the costs of training and your licence

The majority of companies will pay for your training, though they frequently include clauses in contracts of employment allowing them to claw back a percentage of the costs if you leave within a short space of time. Some companies will pay for your licence for you, though this may have to be paid back via deductions in wages or be subject to similar terms to training costs.

Degrees and Diplomas in Risk and Security Management

Some Universities and Colleges provide a range of Degrees and Post-Graduate courses in security related subjects. See below for contact details.

Job Search

Job Centres may be able to assist but companies also advertise vacancies in local newspapers and on various web sites. Some hold recruitment days at local hotels. Managerial positions are advertised by major recruitment agencies in the national and local press and security journals. You can register your CV with recruitment agencies and web sites. Some useful addresses and other information follows to help you with your job search, career planning and training. If you join this industry now, you will be doing so at a very exciting time when opportunities for development and success are both interesting and varied both in technical and manned sectors of the industry.

Some Recruitment agencies:

SSR Personnel

5 Blackhorse Lane, London E17 6DN 020 8626 3100 www.ssr-personnel.com

Momentum

113 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15 2TL 020 8780 9988 www.momentumsecurity.co.uk

Churchill Recruitment Consultants

Arodene House, 41-55 Perth Road, Gants Hill, Essex IG2 6BX 020 8518 6969 www.churchillrecruitment.com

C2c recruitment

The Old Granary, West End Farm, Upper Froyle, Alton, Hants GU34 4JR 01420 521278 www.c2c-recruitment.com

HJA Fire & Security Ltd

Talbot House, 204-226 Imperial Drive, Rayners Lane, Middx HA2 7HH 0845 644 6891 www.hja.co.uk

OASIS Recruitment Ltd

PO Box 460, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 9FU 01438 741 999 www.oasisrecruitment.com

Other useful web sites: www.jobsoracle.com www.fish4.co.uk

Some Training Providers:

IPSA and related agencies - see IPSA web site - www.ipsa.org.uk

See also the **SIA** web site - www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk for training providers delivering courses required for licensing in various sectors.

Distance Learning and Degree courses leading to Higher Qualifications:

Perpetuity Training Ltd

14 Cornwall Business Centre, Cornwall Road, Wigston, Leicester LE18 4XH 0116 277 3313 www.perpetuitytraining.com

University of Leicester, The Department of Criminology (Scarman Centre)

The Friars, 154 Upper New Walk, Leicester LE1 7QA 0116 252 2458 www.le.ac.uk/criminology/

University of Portsmouth offering BSc (Hons) and MSc degrees 023 9284 8484 www.port.ac.uk

University House, Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2UP

Screening

IPSA Certificated Screening Service: staffvetting.com (in association with IPSA)

Cobalt Business Exchange, Cobalt Park Way, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE28 9NZ 08450 217634 www.staffvetting.com

Associations

International Professional Security Association *membership open to Individuals and Companies*

Railway House, Railway Road, Chorley PR6 0NE 0845 873 8114 www.ipsa.org.uk

British Security Industry Association, *membership organisation for companies only*

Kirkham House, John Comyn Drive, Worcester, WR3 7NS, UK 0845 389 3889 www.bsia.co.uk

See the "Links" page at www.ipsa.org.uk for a list of other associations

Sector Skills Body /Awarding Bodies

Skills for Security

Kirkham House, John Comyn Drive, Worcester WR3 7NS 01905 744000 www.skillsforsecurity.org.uk

Industry Qualifications

Coppice House, Halesfield 7, Telford, Shropshire TF7 4NA 01952 457452 www.industryqualifications.org.uk

Edexcel One 90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH 0870 240 3941 www.edexcel.org.uk

City and Guilds Institute, 1 Giltspur Street, London EC1A 9DD 020 7294 2800 www.cityandguilds.com

IPSA Security Instruction and Guidance Manual

This manual is obtainable from IPSA at a cost of £109.00 plus post and packaging. It is a useful reference guide for all managers and others working in security or studying for security industry qualifications. Update pages can also be obtained.

Technical jobs:

The technical field offers training and qualifications for security and fire alarm and CCTV installation, locksmithing and other disciplines. Some Technical Colleges and other training agencies run courses leading to these qualifications.

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