

Welcome to the May 2013 edition of PSAWatch, the ezine of the Private Security Authority. This issue contains information on the licensing of Private Investigators, Locksmiths and Suppliers and Installers of Safes and contains a message from An Garda Síochána on the National Age Card.

Licensing Questionnaire On Private Investigators

The PSA has commenced preliminary work on assessing the scope and activities of the private investigation sector in Ireland. This preparatory work is being undertaken in advance of the licensing of Private Investigators which will be introduced at a date in the future which will be announced after the preparatory work has been completed.

As part of this work the PSA has issued a questionnaire aimed at customers, private investigators and those with an interest in the private investigation industry. The questionnaire covers matters such as business structures, activities, qualifications, standards and customer assessment of service delivery. The information gathered will be used by the PSA to guide the development of policy on future licensing of the industry. A copy of the questionnaire is available for download on the PSA website, www.psa.gov.ie.

This is the first phase in the public consultation process which will continue during the development process in advance of licensing. As part of the development process the PSA will identify standards to be applied to private investigators. These standards will also be published for public consultation at a later date.

The closing date for receipt of completed questionnaires is **Friday, 14th June 2013**.

Licensing Of Locksmiths And Suppliers And Installers Of Safes

The PSA is in the process of establishing a working group of industry stakeholders to assist the PSA in preparing the licensing requirements for Locksmiths and Suppliers and Installers of Safes. The work of the group will include:

- defining the parameters of locksmiths for the purposes of licensing,
- developing a standard to apply to the licensing of locksmiths,
- defining the parameters of suppliers and installer of safes for the purposes of licensing,
- developing a standard to apply to suppliers and installers of safes either as part of the locksmith standard or a stand alone standard.

Any standard(s) developed by the working group will be the subject of a public consultation process and the working group would consider submissions made under this process.

Subject to the outcome of the groups deliberations, the PSA would hope to be in able to announce a timeframe for the licensing of these sectors by the end of the year.

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Focus On Electronic Security Installers

The Electronic Security Installer sector comprises of 3 sub-sectors, Access Control, CCTV and Intruder Alarm. The sector is the largest segment of the contractor licence database with 536 (71%) of the 755 licence holders holding a licence in the Electronic sector. Of these, 509 hold licences solely in the Electronic sector while 27 hold licences in other sectors. The table below shows the breakdown by sectors of the licences held by contractors in the Electronic sector on the 19th May 2013

Access /CCTV/ Intruder Alarm	372
Intruder Alarm	99
Access Control/CCTV	18
Access Control	12
Access Control/CCTV/Intruder Alarm/Security Guard (Monitoring Centre)	7
Access Control/CCTV/Intruder Alarm/Security Guard (Static)	6
Access Control/CCTV/Intruder Alarm/Security Guard (Static) /Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises)	5
Access Control/CCTV/Intruder Alarm/Security Guard (Static) /Security Guard (Monitoring Centre)	4
CCTV/Intruder Alarm	4
CCTV	3
Access Control/CCTV/Security Guard (Static)/Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises)	1
Access Control/CCTV/Security Guard (Static)	1
Access Control/ Intruder Alarm	1
Intruder Alarm/Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises)	1
Intruder Alarm/Security Guard (Monitoring Centre)	1
Intruder Alarm/Security Guard (Static)	1
Total	536

The sector comprises of 338 companies, 184 sole traders and 14 partnerships. The turnover of the contractors from the electronic sector based on the information contained in their application forms is in excess of €146 million.

The extension of licensing to the Access Control and CCTV sectors has been successful with the PSA well on course to meet its target of 200 first time contractors licensed within the first 12 months. To date, 162 first time applications have been received while 355 existing licence holder have added the sectors to their licence.

Our inspection team has conducted a preliminary assessment of compliance in both sectors by reviewing a number of public sources such as websites and local directories. Unlicensed contractors have been identified and are the subject of further investigations. Targeted inspections against contractors and clients are scheduled for the coming months with external inspectors playing an important role in identifying installations across the country.

[Exemptions Issued To Install Intruder Alarms In Quarter 1, 2013](#)
(View Here)

[To Report An Unlicensed Security Service](#)
(Click Here)

Message From The Garda National Age Card Office

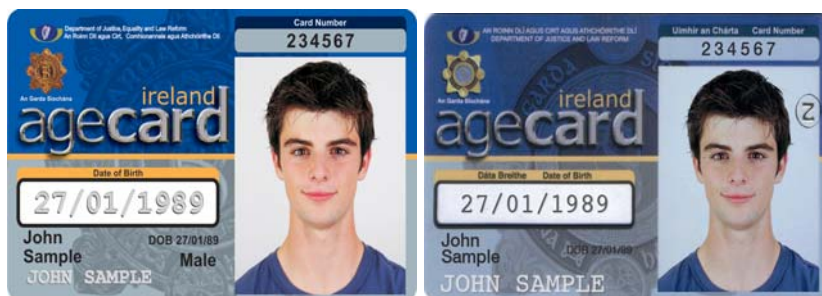
The Garda National Age Card Office has asked us to have asked us to bring the following message to the attention of contractors in the Door Supervisor sector. The Office is again running an awareness campaign on the Garda Age Card and has contacted all second level school leavers and all third level students to remind them to log on to www.agecard.ie and order their Agecard in time for the summer break.

There are now around a quarter of a million Agecards in circulation and with an average of 180 applications per day the number is growing. The card has proved to be very successful and carries significant security features to guard against forgeries.

This Age Card was first launched in April 2007 and in the intervening six years there have been some small changes to the information on the card.

- Pre 2011 the Age Card showed the gender of the card holder. (These would be card numbers up to 5-----)
- Post 2011 Age Cards no longer show the gender and also have bi lingual headings. These would be cards from 6-----)

Both cards are valid age cards and the samples below show both versions.



All details on the Agecard are available on www.agecard.ie.

The Age Card Office, Community Relations, An Garda Síochána thanks the private security industry for their continuing support in requesting the Agecard as preferred “Proof of Age”.

Details on the security features of the Agecard are set out on the next page.

**In The First
4 Months Of 2013
2 Contractor Licences
Were Revoked
(1 Intruder Alarm,
1 Security Guard
(Static))
& 1 Was Suspended
For A Period
Of 3 Months
(Intruder Alarm)**

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Contractor Standards
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F: 062-31731
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Individual Licensing
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062 - 32636
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www.psa.gov.ie

Security Features

FRONT OF CARD

- UV SECURITY INKS
- 'ac' ANIMATED MOVEMENT AROUND MAP OF IRELAND
- EMBOSSD D.O.B. FLOATING IN TRANSPARENT WINDOW
- AGECARD TEXT APPEARS IN VARIOUS COLOURS AS CARD IS TILTED.
- EMBOSSD SPECIAL SYMBOL
- COLOUR OF GARDA & JUSTICE EMBLEMS INVERT AS TILTED.
- LETTERS 'ac' CHANGE TO GARDA & JUSTICE EMBLEMS AS CARD IS TILTED.

BACK OF CARD

- BRIGHT METAL HOLOGRAM ON REVERSE OF CARD

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí

An Garda Síochána

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our ezine and its contents. You can contact us at info@psa.gov.ie. If you wish to unsubscribe or a colleague wishes to have their name added to our distribution list please let us know at info@psa.gov.ie.

Thank You