

Welcome to the May edition of PSAWatch, the ezine of the Private Security Authority. In this issue we announce the critical date for the licensing of Private Investigators and the launching of a PSA Hotline for intelligence reporting. We hope you find something of interest.

Issue 42 • May 2015

Top Stories

LICENSING OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS LAUNCHED

The Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, T.D. has today announced that, with effect from 1 November 2015, contractors providing security services as a private investigator will require a license from the Private Security Authority (PSA).

The extension of licensing to private investigators is a major milestone for the PSA, an independent statutory body under the aegis of the Department of Justice and Equality with responsibility for licensing and regulating the private security industry. The Authority has to date licensed contractors in the cash-in-transit, event security, door supervisor, security guarding, installer of security equipment and alarm and cctv monitoring sectors.

Announcing the Regulations which were signed recently, Minister Fitzgerald said

“The licensing of Private Investigators follows two years of development work by the Private Security Authority, including consultation with the industry. During that period, a number of successful prosecutions against Private Investigators have been achieved by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner following investigation into the activities of Private Investigators. Some of the more undesirable activities and practices of the sector have been highlighted by these investigations and the need for regulation is evident. I am confident that the introduction of these Regulations will raise standards in the sector.”

The Minister, together with the Chairman of the PSA Board and the Chief Executive of the PSA, recently co-signed the necessary Regulation to introduce licensing of private investigators, i.e. S.I. No.195 of 2015. The Minister also signed the necessary Commencement Order, S.I. No. 194 of 2015, which means that it will be an offence for any contractor to offer a service as a Private Investigator without a licence after 1 November 2015.

In addition, only those licensed by the PSA will be able to advertise or represent themselves as a Licensed Private Investigator. It will also be an offence for a person to engage or employ an unlicensed Private Investigator. The Authority maintains a register of both contractor and individual licence holders on its website, www.psa.gov.ie. The registers are a useful tool for business and the public who can ensure that their security provider is licensed by checking the details on the register.

Application packs and further information will be available on the PSA website in the coming weeks. The PSA will start accepting applications from the 31st August 2015.

- [Private Investigators](#)
- [Employee Qualifications](#)
- [Reporting Hotline](#)
- [Auditing Guidelines for Monitoring Centres](#)

QUALIFICATION TIME FRAMES - EMPLOYEE LICENCES

From the 1st September 2015, the PSA will require all first time applicants for an employee licence to have successfully completed the relevant training within 36 months prior to lodging their application with the Authority. Where the training has taken place outside of the 36 month period the application will be rejected.

This change in policy is to ensure that all those applying for licences have training that is current and relevant to the security industry. Existing licence holders will not be effected by this change.

PSA REPORTING HOTLINE LAUNCHED

The PSA has launched a new dedicated hotline for reporting complaints to our Enforcement Division. The number is **062 32613** and will be available 24/7/365. When the line is not manned a mailbox will be available. If you wish to be contacted by us regarding your complaint you should clearly leave your name, contact number and a brief message and you will be contacted by the next working day at the latest.

Intelligence reports are a key component of our compliance activity and we would encourage all those involved in the industry to report all non-compliant activity. The reporting facility on our website will continue to operate.

NEW AUDITING GUIDELINES PUBLISHED

The PSA has published the Auditing Guidelines for *PSA Licensing Requirements – CCTV Monitoring and Alarm Monitoring Centres (PSA 33:2014)* on our website, www.psa.gov.ie. The guidelines were developed to assist certification bodies in the auditing of PSA 33:2014. The publication of the guidelines will provide contractors with a better understanding of the audit requirements set by the PSA. Contractors may find it useful to familiarise themselves with the guidelines in advance of their certification audits.

Your certification body has been consulted in the development of these guidelines and the PSA has discussed the implementation of the guidelines with them. Any queries you may have regarding the guidelines and the audit process should be raised with your certification body.

The PSA will review the auditing guidelines in consultation with the certification bodies. Any changes will be notified to the certification bodies and revised guidelines will be published on our website from time to time.

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

An tÚdarás Slándála Príobháidí
The Private Security Authority
Davis Street, Tipperary, Co.
Tipperary

T: 062-31588
F: 062-31591
E: info@psa.gov.ie

Contractor Division

Contractor Licensing
T: 062-32612
062-32614
062-32624
062-32606
F: 062-31731
E: contractors@psa.gov.ie

Individual Division

Individual Licensing
(First Names Beginning with A-J)
T: 062 - 32622
062 - 32625
062 - 32627
062 - 32631
062 - 32632
F: 062-31591
E: licensing@psa.gov.ie

Individual Licensing
(First Names Beginning with K-Z)
T: 062 - 32610
062 - 32626
062 - 32630
062 - 32635
062 - 32636
062 - 32638
F: 062-31591
E: licensing@psa.gov.ie

Enforcement Division

T: 062 - 32609
062 - 32629
062 - 32658
F: 062 - 31731
E: enforcement@psa.gov.ie

Corporate Affairs Division

T: 062-31516
062-32617
F: 062-31731
E: info@psa.gov.ie

www.psa.gov.ie