

Licensing of Event Security Personnel

On the 25th September, the PSA met with licensed contractors in the Event Security sector. The PSA's Chief Executive, Paul Scallan, presented on the findings of the PSA's inspections at events over the summer months. He highlighted a number of areas of concern and warned contractors that they were at risk of having their licences revoked if these issues were not addressed immediately.

He also announced a timeframe for the licensing of employees in the sector, with the 1st March 2020 set as the critical date for licensing. From that date all Event Security staff will require a PSA licence.

To facilitate licensing of the sector, it was also announced that a restructuring of the current licence system for employees would take place on the 1st March 2020. The Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises) licence would be replaced by a Door Supervisor licence which could be used for a licensed premises or for the entertainment area of an event. The cost of this licence would be the same as the current Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises) licence.

There would also be a change to the scope of the licensable activity of the Security Guard (Static) licence which would allow this licence to be used for the periphery area of events. Again there would be no change in the cost of the Security Guard (Static) licence.

Further information on Event Security licensing will be published over the coming months.

PSA 31

A revised version of PSA 31, the standard required by new contractors entering the Door Supervisor, Event Security or Security Guard (Static) sectors came into operation on the 1st September 2019.

One of the major changes under the revised standard is that compliance to the standard will be audited by the PSA Inspectorate instead of Certification Bodies. The document is available [here](#).

Employers please note that you are responsible for ensuring that your employees hold current licences for the sectors you operate in.

If you are found to have unlicensed employees, including employees whose licences have expired or revoked, you may face prosecution and/or suspension of your licence.

REPORTING AN UNLICENSED SECURITY SERVICE

Help us to tackle unlicensed security services. You can report an unlicensed security service through our website or by email to enforcement@psa.gov.ie

Judgements against you may impact your licence

The Authority has the power to refuse to grant a licence or to suspend or revoke a licence if it deems that an applicant or licensee is not a fit and proper person. Our legislation does not specify what is meant by a fit and proper person and for this reason we have developed a Fit & Proper Assessment.

The Fit & Proper Assessment just doesn't look at criminality. It also looks at a person's competence and general suitability including financial suitability. Where a judgement has been taken out against a licensee and the licensee fails to pay the sums outstanding, the Authority will consider the licensee's suitability to continue holding a licence.

A copy of our [Fit & Proper Assessment Guidelines](#) are available on our website.

Licences Are Not Transferable

The Authority regularly receives requests from contractors to transfer their licence to a new entity. This can happen where a sole trader decides to establish a limited company or where a contractor transfers their business. Section 22 (5) of the Private Security Services Act states:

A licence-

(a) does not confer any right of property, and

(b) may not be transferred or assigned or be mortgaged, charged or otherwise encumbered.

The legislation is quite clear in this matter, a licence may not be transferred. Where a new entity takes over the business of a licensed contractor the new entity must itself be licensed before commencing business.

Brexit

We provided information on Brexit in our February's PSA Watch which you can find [here](#). We do not plan to issue any further communications on the matter until there has been certainty on the Brexit arrangements and departure.

Don't leave sensitive information lying around the office

Don't leave documents or portable media with personal or confidential information lying on the desk. Lock them in a drawer or shred them to reduce the risk of unauthorized disclosure.

2019 Enforcement Focus

In the first 6 months of 2019, we commenced 503 enforcement cases, our inspectors interviewed 505 security employees and visited over 493 business premises to check that licensed security providers were being engaged. During the period, the following contractors had their licences revoked.

Contractor Name	Region	Sector(s)
Con Brosnan trading as Brosnan Investigations	Limerick	Private Investigator
Pat Brennan trading as K-Comm Security Systems	Kilkenny	Electronic Security Installer
Nimsh Consulting Limited	Meath	Electronic Security Installer
Cormac Hopkins trading as Wired Up Security Solutions	Northern Ireland	Electronic Security Installer
All About Vision Limited	Kildare	Electronic Security Installer
Crainstallations Limited	U.K	Electronic Security Installer
Jonathan Quigley trading as Quigley Aerial & Satellite Installation	Roscommon	Electronic Security Installer
BB Hospitality Technologies Limited trading as Velocity V1	Clare	Electronic Security Installer

In the first 6 months of the year, the following employee licences were also revoked.

License	Expiry Date	County	Sector
EM137072/19	8/12/2019	Limerick	Security Guard (Static)
EM141010/20	1/2/2020	Galway	Door Security (Licensed Premises)
EM150885/21	10/1/2021	Dublin 24	Security Guard (Static)

PSA Contact Details

An tÚdarás Slándála Príobháidí
The Private Security Authority
Davis Street, Tipperary,
Co. Tipperary, E34 PY91

T: 062-32600
E: info@psa.gov.ie
www.psa.gov.ie

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Thank You