

*Welcome to the July 2014 edition of PSAWatch, the ezine of the Private Security Authority. In this issue we look at the departure of our Chief Executive, Geraldine Larkin, Event Security Licensing and information for Electronic Security Contractors on the Home Renovation Scheme.*

## **PSA Chief Executive Moves On**

Geraldine Larkin, Chief Executive of the PSA since its establishment in 2004 was recently appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Irish Greyhound Board. This appointment reflects on the success that Ms. Larkin has achieved in introducing licensing to the Irish security industry and shows the high esteem in which she is held in business circles.

During her time with the PSA, Ms. Larkin has brought about a transformation of the Irish security industry which has benefited the industry itself, the wider business community and the public. Through regulation, she has raised the levels of professionalism across the industry and leaves a proud legacy as she departs for her new career.

The PSA would like to recognise and thank Geraldine for her dedication and leadership over the past 10 years and take this opportunity to wish her every success in her new role as Chief Executive of the Irish Greyhound Board.

The PSA's Chief Inspector, John Ryan, will act as interim Chief Executive pending the announcement of a new Chief Executive.

## **Publication of Auditing Guidelines For PSA 28:2013**

The PSA has published the Auditing Guidelines for *PSA Licensing Requirements – Door Supervision and Security Guarding* (PSA 28:2013) on our website, [www.psa.gov.ie](http://www.psa.gov.ie). The guidelines were developed to assist certification bodies in the auditing of PSA 28:2013. 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.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 Commencement Date For Event Security

The 1st November 2014 has been set as the critical date for the licensing of contractors providing Event Security services. This is the date from which all Event Security Contractors will require a licence.

The PSA has developed a requirements document for Event Security contractors entitled “*PSA Licensing Requirements – Event Security (PSA 39:2014)*” which is available on our website. In order to obtain a licence, contractors will require a certificate from a PSA approved certification body certifying compliance to PSA 39:2014.

Two types of licence are being created with the introduction of licensing to the Event Security sector:

- Door Supervisor (Event Security)
- Security Guard (Event Security)

The Door Supervisor (Event Security) licence is required by all those who provide security services in the Entertainment Area of an event. PSA 39:2014 defines the Entertainment Area as the specific area of a venue where the entertainment or social performance takes place and where the provision of a security service is undertaken by a Door Supervisor (Event Security) provider. The Entertainment Area includes areas where alcohol and food are served.

The Security Guard (Event Security) licence is required by all those who provide security services in the Periphery Area of an event. PSA 39:2014 defines the Periphery Area as the specific area of a venue adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Entertainment Area where the provision of a security service is undertaken by a Security Guard (Event Security) provider. The Periphery Area includes car parks, accommodation areas, venue perimeter and approaches, and any other location not within the Entertainment Area.

Contractors who currently hold either a Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises) or Security Guard (Static) licence will be able to synchronise their certification audit for the new licence with their existing certification audit. Where their next compliance audit is not scheduled until after the 1st November 2014, the Authority will issue a licence on foot of a letter from their Certification Body confirming that the contractor has registered for Event Security certification. The scheduled audit can then encompass a compliance audit in respect of all licensable sectors. This arrangement will help to minimise compliance costs for licence holders.

Contractors availing of this arrangement must obtain certification before the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

A date for the licensing of individuals in the Event Security sector has not yet been set. Development work on the requirements for individual licensing is currently underway and a separate announcement on a licensing timeframe will be made in due course.

[PSA 39  
Licensing  
Requirements  
For  
Event Security  
Contractors  
\(Available Here\)](#)

## Electronic Security Systems included in Home Renovation Scheme

The Revenue Commissioners have confirmed that electronic security systems will qualify under the Home Renovation Incentive Scheme. The scheme which will run until the 31 December 2015 provides for tax relief for home owners on qualifying expenditure on repair, renovation or improvement works carried out on a main home by qualifying contractors. Details of the scheme are available from the Revenue Commissioners at [Revenue.ie](http://Revenue.ie).

## CER Launches Public Consultation On Electrical Safety

The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) has launched a public consultation on the regulation of electrical contractors with respect to safety. Contractors in the electronic security sector may wish to participate in the process. Further details are available from CERs the website, [cer.ie](http://cer.ie).

## Security Guarding and Door Supervision Compliance Inspections

Our Inspectors continue to carry out inspections throughout the country to ensure that compliance with the licensing regulations is being maintained. Up to the end of June, a total of 1,147 security staff were checked at 611 venues across 20 counties. The percentage of employees licensed was 97% while the compliance rate with the requirement to display an identity badge stood at 98%. The rate also stood at 98% for compliance with the requirement to produce a licence card for inspection.

The PSA is committed to ensuring that the licensing regulations are met by all those providing security services in the security guarding and door supervision sectors. Inspections are arranged across a 24/7 time span to ensure that all types of security services are visited. During the summer, inspections will be targeted at locations where seasonal activities and events are likely to result in an increased security presence with particular emphasis on locations where overnight security is provided.

## Reporting Unlicensed Activity

Much of our compliance activity is intelligence led and we rely on the information provided to us by the security industry. We welcome information received on those providing security services without a licence or those not complying with the licensing regulations. You can use the “[Report Unlicensed Security Services](#)” form on our website to provide us with details of unlicensed activity. The more information we receive the greater the likelihood that we can act successfully on it.

## Feedback

We welcome your feedback and comments on our ezine. You can contact us at [info@psa.gov.ie](mailto: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](mailto:info@psa.gov.ie).

Thank You

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