Intruder Alarm and CCTV System Design Proposal and Remote Access

Remote access to electronic security devices is now a common feature on many systems. Contractors need to ensure that they are aware of the risks that such access can present for them.

Where an installer requires remote access to the alarm or CCTV system for system updates, services, maintenance, etc, the details of when and how remote access will take place must be set out clearly in the system design proposal or in a letter of compliance and must be understood and signed by the client before any remote access is undertaken on the system.

Failure to obtain the consent of the client may result in the contractor facing legal proceedings if they access the system remotely without the clients knowledge. They may also find themselves in beach of data protection regulations. Protect yourself by ensuring the client has provided you with the required consent to access the system remotely.

Click here to read our information note on Data Protection and CCTV

Covid-19 and the Licence Fee

In the June 2020 edition of PSA Watch, we informed you that our Board had presented proposals to the Department of Justice seeking to reduce the cost of the licence in response to the impact of Covid-19 on the security industry. The proposals were not accepted and our Board were requested to review the proposals in light of the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the security industry following the reopening of business over the summer.

We lodged a revised proposal with the Department at the end of October which recently was also rejected. The Board and Executive are disappointed that despite their best efforts the Minister and the Department have not agreed to our proposals. We will continue to engage with the Minister and the Department on this issue.

An instalment arrangement is available to assist contractors with payment of the licence fee.

For details of the Government supports available to business visit;

https://enterprise.gov.ie/

Resumption of Certification Audits

Certification audits in the Electronic Security, Locksmith and Private Investigator sectors have been on hold since March 2020. We recently advised the auditing bodies that remote audits of contractors can commence.

Audits will only take place were contractors are in a position to facilitate the audit and the auditing bodies are required to undertake an assessment of the contractor in advance to ensure that the audit can proceed.

Site visits may be done by video where it is safe to do so. We do not expect contractors to visit an occupied residential premises to conduct a video inspection. If you cannot facilitate a video inspection your auditing body make alternative arrangement for completing the audit.

Garda Vetting and Children and Vulnerable Persons

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 provides for the use of specified information in regard to vetting. Specified information is information other than a court determined criminal conviction and the Act provides that such "specified information" is only disclosed where it raises a bona-fide concern that a person poses a threat to children or vulnerable person. The types of work or activities for which this information is disclosed include:

- Childcare services.   • Schools.   • Hospitals and health services.
- Residential services or accommodation for children or vulnerable persons.
- Treatment, therapy or counselling services for children or vulnerable persons.
- Provision of leisure/sporting/physical activities to children/vulnerable persons.

The provision of security services is not a prescribed activity under the Act.

If you provide a security service to a client whose work or activities are listed above you should clarify with the client if your security personnel require vetting in accordance with the Act. If required, the client should arrange for the personnel to be vetted.

The PSA does not vet people for compliance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012. Any queries on the matter should be

The results of the PSA surveys conducted at the end of 2019 can be found in our Research Report which was published alongside our Annual Report for 2019.

An tÚdarás Slándála Príobháidí
The Private Security Authority

RESEARCH REPORT 2019

addressed to your client. You should retain copies of all communications between you and your clients on this matter.

Enforcement Focus

In 2020, the PSA commenced **687** enforcement cases to ensure compliance with the licensing regulations and PSA COVID-19 guidelines. We undertook **38** contractor inspections, carried out **115** unannounced compliance inspections on licensed premises, and investigated **198** buyer of security cases.

We had one successful prosecution of a company for providing unlicensed security services resulting in €3,000 in fines and €7,500.00 in costs awarded against the company.

Employee licences revoked October 2020 – January 2021

2020/2021 Employee Licence Revocations				
License	**Expiry Date**	**County**	**Revocation date**	**Sector**
EM169180/22	08/12/2022	Tipperary	22/10/2020	DSP
EM165189/22	05/09/2022	Dublin	03/11/2020	SG & DSP
EM158331/22	09/01/2022	Cork	17/11/2020	SG
EM167981/22	08/12/2022	Clare	17/11/2020	SG & DSP
EM000309/22	09/01/2022	Meath	24/11/2020	SG
EM155451/21	05/11/2021	Dublin	10/12/2020	SG
EM000456/22	09/01/2022	Dublin	10/12/2020	SG
EM002239/22	09/01/2022	Dublin	10/12/2020	SG & DSP
EM164416/22	06/07/2022	Leitrim	15/12/2020	DSP
2020/2021 Employee Licence Suspensions				
License Number	**Expiry Date**	**County**	**Suspension date**	**Sector**
EM170405/23	30/01/2023	Dublin	19/10/2020	CIT

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our ezine and its contents. We also welcome any suggestions for future issues. 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