

SECTION:

Information Destruction Section.

Criteria

Membership of the Information Destruction Section is open to professional information-destruction companies that operate in full alignment with the current BS EN 15713 and hold UKAS-accredited ISO 9001 or ISO 27001 certification. Recognised industry-equivalent certifications can be considered where appropriate.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to ensure the secure, confidential, and accountable destruction of information in all forms, protecting individuals, organisations, and stakeholders from the risks associated with data compromise. We commit to delivering destruction processes that meet the principles of BS EN 15713 by applying robust security controls, maintaining full chain-of-custody transparency, and upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and environmental responsibility.

Vision:

To enhance the security and responsible handling of confidential material across the UK, empower organisations with the guidance and assurance they need to meet their duty of care, and promote best practice in secure information destruction through the leadership and collective expertise of the BSIA.

Educate:

- The section promotes ongoing awareness and education on the importance of secure information destruction, ensuring customers and stakeholders understand the risks associated with mishandled confidential material and the responsibilities placed on organisations.
- Members produce accessible best-practice materials, fact sheets, and explanatory guidance to help organisations understand how to manage confidential waste securely and in line with recognised standards such as BS EN 15713.
- The section advises members on interpreting standards, legal obligations, and regulatory requirements relating to information destruction, supporting consistent, compliant, and high-quality service delivery across the sector.
- Engagement with regulators, government departments, industry bodies, insurers, and data-protection stakeholders helps shape wider understanding of secure destruction needs and reinforces the importance of robust, compliant processes.
- Members highlight the value of BSIA membership, accredited services, and adherence to recognised standards during customer interactions, raising awareness of the quality, professionalism, and assurance that BSIA-aligned providers deliver.

Elevate:

- Members highlight the quality, reliability, and professionalism of their destruction services, using recognised standards to demonstrate excellence and differentiate themselves from non-accredited or non-compliant providers.
- The section emphasises that BS EN 15713 underpins secure handling, controlled processes, and verifiable destruction outcomes, elevating the credibility of compliant organisations.
- Engagement with regulators, data-protection bodies, insurers, and industry stakeholders reinforces the professionalism of BSIA members and strengthens the standing of the ID Section across the wider information-governance landscape.

Evolve:

- The section contributes to the ongoing development of standards through BSI, ensuring secure information-destruction practices remain aligned with emerging best practice, technological change, and evolving security expectations.
- Members work collectively to positively influence legislation and regulatory frameworks relating to data protection, waste management, and information governance, ensuring they reflect modern risks, operational realities, and the importance of secure destruction.
- The section gathers, analyses, and shares authoritative statistics, sector trends, and incident insights to help members evolve their services based on real-world data and emerging threat patterns.
- PR, marketing, and social-media activity help evolve how the section communicates with customers, policymakers, and the wider public, ensuring messages about secure destruction reach broader and more diverse audiences.
- Inviting organisations such as data-protection bodies, environmental regulators, insurers, and industry associations broadens perspectives and strengthens the section's ability to evolve its influence across the wider information-governance landscape

Goals:

What the ID section will achieve in the coming year of 2026:

Educate

- Conduct a sector-wide survey to deepen understanding of customer behaviour, destruction-service usage, and organisational attitudes toward secure information disposal. Survey themes may include:
 - interaction between organisations and their destruction providers
 - awareness of BS EN 15713
 - user habits around confidential-waste handling
 - emerging risks and threat perceptions

- Increase customer understanding of when, why, and how secure destruction should be used, ensuring services are deployed appropriately and that confidential material is not mishandled or stored unnecessarily.
- Explore customer perceptions of threats, risks, and compliance obligations, identifying gaps in understanding that can be addressed through targeted education.
- Develop training-focused insight on how collection operatives, drivers, and wider staff perceive their role in the secure-destruction chain, and how organisations can better support them.
- Produce white papers for the professional security market covering:
 - commercial-sector secure destruction
 - domestic/off-the-shelf solutions
 - emerging technologies and their implications
- Develop case studies demonstrating best practice in secure destruction, including examples of effective chain-of-custody management, customer engagement, and risk mitigation.
- Address environmental and sustainability considerations, including WEEE implications for owned and collected equipment, especially as regulatory timelines shift toward 2030–2035.

Elevate

- Commission or fund an outward-facing market survey to understand how organisations perceive secure information destruction, the value they place on accredited providers, and the barriers to adoption. Ensure the survey is sector-specific, costed, and designed to generate actionable insights.
- Launch a public-awareness campaign to educate businesses, employees, and the public about the importance of secure destruction, data-protection obligations, and the risks of poor disposal practices.
- Collaborate with media outlets and trade publications to highlight the role of secure destruction in information governance, data protection, and organisational resilience.
- Address the ID Section's relative lack of visibility by increasing outreach, commentary, and representation in industry discussions.
- Produce white papers for commercial and domestic markets, clarifying the differences between accredited secure destruction and general waste-handling services.
- Clarify UK market expectations by aligning messaging with ICO guidance, environmental regulation, and industry best practice.
- Develop practical tools and guidance for stakeholders, including:
 - risk-assessment templates
 - checklists for secure-waste management
 - best-practice case studies
 - implementation guides for BS EN 15713
- Create short, engaging two-minute educational videos to support customer understanding and promote BSIA-aligned secure-destruction practices.

Evolve

- Strengthen membership engagement through conducting targeted research with the membership base to understand their requirements.
- Increase the number of accredited ID members to maintain UK influence in European and international standards development, particularly through BSI.
- Explore opportunities to align or integrate ID-related standards with adjacent security disciplines where appropriate (e.g., secure logistics, data-handling, or physical-security frameworks).

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Awareness Metrics

- Increase in downloads of educational materials, white papers, and guidance documents.
- Growth in attendance at BSIA-hosted webinars, workshops, and events.
- Increase in media mentions, social-media engagement, and public-outreach activity.
- Improved BSIA website analytics for ID-related content.
- Member-supported social-media amplification.

Member Engagement

- Number of businesses using BSIA risk-assessment tools and guidance.
- Increase in BSIA membership within the ID sector.
- Feedback and uptake of training sessions, consultancy, and best-practice resources.

Legislative & Standards Impact

- Engagement with policymakers, regulators, and standards bodies.
- Evidence of influence on policy updates, consultations, and standards revisions.
- Member participation in BSI working groups.
- BSIA to facilitate ID member participation in EA and ICO working groups where they exist.