



Secure your future!

A guide for Service leavers to careers in the security industry

Why choose a career in security?

The private security industry has emerged as an essential service both to the business world and the wider public, and so there has never been a better time to consider a career in security.

It is an exciting and growing industry that has long-recognised the value that service leavers can bring in terms of experience and expertise. It is an industry full of opportunity where you can work in a variety of roles throughout your career, or specialise in one area - depending on what suits you.



What types of jobs are there?

There are a wide variety of roles within the security sector including; **frontline security personnel to control room operations, alarm installer, consultancy, close protection...** the list goes on. The BSIA segment the security industry into 14 different sectors. You can find out more about these sectors, and BSIA member companies at <https://www.bsia.co.uk/members-directory/>.

As well as companies providing personnel roles, the manufacturing and service provider sectors of the industry will also offer up a variety of roles that will appeal to you and be relevant to your experience.

The security sector offers a professional, sustainable career path with various roles to choose from. Professional security companies **offer a competitive salary** with a number of other added benefits to employment. These may include:

- Continuous training.
- Opportunity for flexible working.
- Opportunity to contribute and make a difference to an ever-growing sector.

"My role is wide-reaching and varied and involves dealing with the incidents as they occur. I enjoy the fact that I get to meet different members of the public in a pleasant and courteous manner. I'm happy knowing that I am doing something involved."

**CASE
STUDY**

Kenneth, Retail Security Officer

The long-term benefits



It is common for people to be promoted through the ranks in the security industry, many supervisors and even some managing directors of security companies started as security officers or installers. Whilst at entry level there are limited management positions, if you want to progress in your career this is an excellent industry to get into.

This is an industry which can provide you with stability, opportunity, and growth, offering a secure income.

Will I be able to use my current skills?

Depending upon what career path you choose, you will be able to transfer your skills developed within the service, as well as being able to get help and advice from the **Career Transition Partnership (CTP)**.



BSIA member companies will also be able to assist you with the transition; many of our members work closely with ex-service charities and actively look for personnel with the skills developed in service roles.

They will be looking for leadership skills, organisational skills, the ability to resolve conflict, technical expertise, and problem-solving skills; invaluable abilities you have the potential to provide.

CASE STUDY

"I really enjoy my new role; I spend my time checking for faults in equipment, providing technical support and am looking to become more involved in the research and development side. I was attracted to a career in security because of the developing technologies and I'm certainly getting to see a lot of that here."
Mick, Electronic Technician

Licensing

The ever-evolving world of security means Standards of quality and professionalism are more important than ever. Many of these Standards are governed by industry stakeholders, such as the Security Industry Authority.

The SIA is the government body responsible for managing the licensing process. To qualify for a licence, you need to be over 18, pass an identity and criminality check, and show that your skills and knowledge meet nationally recognised Standards.



Why types of licences are there?

There are five types of licence:

Cash and valuables in transit: for guarding property against damage or theft and transporting it in a vehicle designed for secure transportation.

Close protection: for guarding people against physical assault or injury.

Door supervision: for guarding licensed premises against damage, theft, unauthorised access, or disorderly behaviour.

Public space surveillance licence: For guarding premises, property, or people by using CCTV to:

- Watch members of the public or identify particular people.
- Guard against disorder or protect people from assault (this includes using CCTV to stop incidences occurring, or provide information about them if they do happen).

Security officer: For guarding premises or property against damage, theft, unauthorised access or disorderly behaviour.

"I worked my way up in aviation security developing and maintaining strong business relationships. In my current role I am responsible for managing operational performance and leading sales with multiple contacts."

Tommy, Aviation Service Director



Your next steps



A career in the security industry, can provide the opportunity to progress as you gain experience within your chosen career. Whilst security companies will appreciate your transferable skills from your career in the armed forces, they also value specific experience within the security industry, so you should not automatically expect to go in at a senior management level.

However, there are many opportunities for progression, with some employees able to progress quickly through the ranks.

Finding the right job

The BSIA has a **number of recruitment agencies** who are members, and specialise in security industry recruitment.

We also have **more information on security as a career of choice**, discussing pathways and a link to our members' current vacancy pages.

Useful links

The **Career Transition Partnership (CTP)** provides eligible service leavers with career transition services as part of their resettlement process.

The **Security Industry Authority** is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry.

Skills for Security has been established as the skills and standards setting body for the security business sector.



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THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL SECURITY INDUSTRY