

LICENSING COMMITTEE: 10 May 2010

Report of the Operational Manager (Licensing)

SECURITY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY – POSITION UPDATE

1. Information.

- 1.1 The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is an independent body, set up by the Government under the terms of the Private Security Act 2001 to regulate the licensing of persons involved in the security industries. The role of the SIA was to issue licences to persons working in various sectors of the private security industry and to raise standards in the industry by requiring training and to prevent unsuitable persons from working in the industry.
- 2.2 Door supervisors were the first sector within the private security industry to be required to be licensed by the SIA. Under the Licensing Act 2003 a mandatory condition requires that where a premises licence includes a condition requiring individuals to be at the premises to undertake security activity, such individuals must be licensed by the SIA. Many premises licences issued by the authority contain licence conditions to this effect.
- 2.3 The government had indicated that it would abolish the SIA as part of its plans to reduce the number of quangos through the Public Bodies Bill. Concern has been expressed about the negative impact this may have on the door supervisor sector of the authority enabling serious and organised crime in the areas of drug dealing, money laundering and extortion to gain a foothold.
- 2.4 Home Office Ministers asked the SIA last October to consult key stakeholders, including the industry, and to produce a detailed plan of how a phased transition to a new regulatory regime could be achieved. The chair of the SIA, the noble Baroness, Lady Henig, and its chief executive, Bill Butler, presented their plan to the department on 16 February 2010 and the key points were that: regulation will shift from licensing individuals to registering businesses, which will have to meet a comprehensive set of conditions set by the new regulator; the regulation of individuals will become the responsibility of registered businesses, which is an important point; the new regulator will have the power to impose sanctions, including removing the right to trade in the private security industry on the part of businesses that fail to comply with the conditions that it sets for registration; and the Government's aim is for the new regulatory regime to be in place by the end of 2013, using a phased approach to ensure a smooth transition.

- 2.4 On 23 March 2011 the government removed the SIA from Schedule 1 of the Public Bodies Bill. It is understood that the Government's intention is now to introduce by the end of 2013, specific legislation to replace the current SIA arrangements with a new regulatory regime that focuses on businesses and with the power to impose robust sanctions on those that fail to comply.
- 2.5 Until the new regime is in place, regulation will continue under the current law, along with measures to enforce compliance. The SIA have said they will continue to work with Government in establishing a new regulatory regime, based primarily on business registration, supported by individual registration, and that they will involve the industry as fully as possible in this process.

4. Achievability

This report contains no equality personnel or property implications.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Report describes how the regulatory framework may change in relation to door security staff. It will still be possible to impose Premises Licence conditions which require the provision of door security staff in appropriate circumstances. It remains to be seen how effective the training and vetting of those security staff may be in practice.

6. Financial Implications.

- 6.1 The report is for information only and contains no direct financial implication for the authority.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the report be noted.

Paul Shone
Operational Manager (Licensing).

4 April 2010

This report has been prepared in accordance with procedures approved by Corporate Managers.

Background Papers: None