



Security Industry Authority

Approved Contractor Scheme

Strategy and Standards Group

Terms of Reference

December 2008

Background

The 2008 ACS Review recommended that the SIA should establish an industry wide forum to discuss and propose how and when ACS standards should be raised.

Whilst the ACS Review itself will continue to examine ACS conditions for approval on an annual basis a consultative forum could feed into this having considered and debated the most beneficial changes to the ACS Standard.

ACS Forums open to all approved contractors will also continue to offer opportunities for consultation on standards. These forums however do not routinely include stakeholders other than approved contractors.

Purpose

To identify good practices in the private security industry and to consider whether these should be incorporated into the ACS standard to support the aims of the SIA and the ACS.

Objectives

- To identify and agree private security industry good practice including performance benchmarks.
- To propose changes to the ACS standard or associated procedures particularly where this may enhance protection of the public through raising standards.
- To consider different stakeholder interests and emerging trends relevant to the ACS standard.
- To consider the impact of proposed changes to the standard on different stakeholder groups including new ACS applicants and new market entrants.

Membership

The committee should be representative of different facets of the industry and recognised as such. Organisation representatives should be Directors or equivalent level. Participants will be drawn from the following:

- Approved Contractors covering every licensable sector and every size of organisation
- Contractors eligible for ACS but not currently approved
- Representative bodies
 - British Security Industry Association (BSIA)
 - The International Professional Security Association (IPSA)
 - UK Crowd Management Association (UKCMA)
 - The Security Institute
 - Skills for Security
 - British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM)
 - Federation of Small Businesses
 - Association of British Insurers or individual brokers/underwriters (ABI)
 - LACORS (Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services)
- ACPO and/or ACPO CPI
- ACS Assessing Bodies (Chair of Community of Interest)
- Industry commentators (e.g. Infologue, SMT)

The committee will review its membership periodically and may invite additional members such as individual buyers of security services or other industry associations. Total membership will be around 20 persons.

Process

The Assistant Director ACS will Chair the Committee. An ACS Quality Assurance Manager will act as secretary. The committee will meet quarterly and minutes will be taken and published. Proposals will be input to the ACS annual review, except where they are of a minor nature and can be implemented without further consultation.

The forum may seek expert advice as necessary. These could include advice from;

- Chartered Quality Institute (CQI)
- British Quality Foundation (BQF)
- British Standards Institution (BSI) GW/003 Manned Security Services committee

Success Factors

- The ACS continues to be accessible to organisations of differing size and complexity
- Industry leaders and other stakeholders actively promote ACS as the vehicle for improving standards
- Significant changes to ACS are championed by the industry enabling rapid implementation
- Greater stakeholder awareness of ACS

Risks

- Group members unable to represent their 'constituency'
- Group seen as unrepresentative

Constraints

- Significant changes to ACS conditions for approval must be authorised by Ministers
- Further consultation on significant changes may be required through the ACS Annual Review