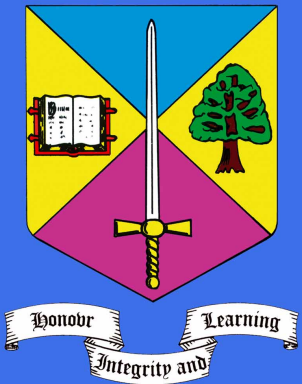




Self Protection
Look after yourself!

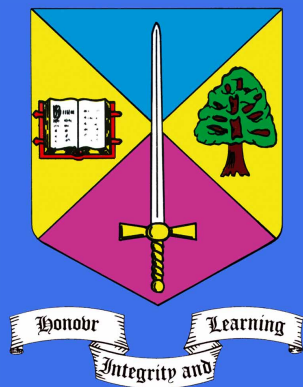


**The Professional
Investigator**

IPI
Jubilee House
3 The Drive
Brentwood
Essex
CM13 3FR

Tel: 0870 330 8622
Fax: 0870 3308612
Email: admin@ipi.org.uk

David Palmer FIPI
Editor



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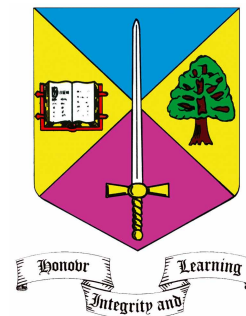
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Contacting the Institute by Telephone

Members should be aware that when contacting the Institute at the Telephone number 0870 3308622 or Fax number 0870 3308612 calls to these numbers cost 2 pence per minute plus whatever your provider charges.

Editorial



Earlier this year, the governmental organisation charged 15 years ago with licensing our sector made a giant step forward in doing so by announcing a survey of all licence holders on equality and diversity in the security sector.

You can imagine how pleased I was to read this. After 15 years and a massive amount of effort on the part of hundreds of people all enthusiastic about seeking qualifications and jumping through the necessary, even desired hoops in order to gain a licence that represented recognition of our professionalism, the Authority charged with delivering that has taken its eye off that ball in the interests of compliance with the 'gender agenda'.

One concern was that there aren't enough female CCTV operators. I'm glad that the gender of the watching eyes is so important. (Here's a suggestion – if there aren't enough female CCTV operators, it's probably because not enough females want the job.)

To the survey, and its importance in the greater scheme of things. Imagine going to a doctor with a malady and being told, "Hang on, I have to

research how to boil an egg first." Or a fire engine turning up at your burning house and conducting a house to house 'public relations survey' before turning the water on.

I've enjoyed working with the SIA over the years – let's face it, it's been so many years that we're old friends. But to see a notice to the industry that it considers that survey more important and time sensitive than actually doing the primary job it was created to do, brings me to despair. It's not that I can't accept that such surveys are now a PC requirement of any regulatory body; I just can't help wondering if a business could get away with tangents that affected the time it has available for providing the service that gives the business its income.

The other question about licensing is still being raised – why is this taking so long? We've consulted for 15 years. We've 'agreed' the competency criteria; the level required by the SIA for competence has been set; the Disclosure and Barring Service provides CRO checks as a matter of routine; the other sectors have laid a template for the administration of the licensing process; the Act has been implemented and enforced for over a decade as defined in 2000.

I have to conclude, with no actual evidence to support the thought, that there are unidentified

**The other question about
licensing is still being
raised – why is this taking
so long?**

continued>>

interests behind the scenes influencing someone – government, for example – with the intention of stalling licensing for their own ends.

Stressing that this is just my 'conspiracy theory', I put this string of thought together as an example. Policing is being semi-privatised. Forces are having to divest themselves of officers. Investigations still have to take place. Private contractors can supply retired officers for when there is a need, but who do not have to be paid when the need slackens off. Such contractors tend to be big – you know who I mean. If they provide contracted staff then under the PSI Act requirements if enacted those investigators will need PI sector licences. As will the contractors, who will probably need ACS approval and/or the potentially expensive Business Regulation. Despite the obvious fact that the contracted investigators will be the ones needing to pay for their licences, the big companies must be conscious of the costs to them – remember, they have to provide investigators at a cheap enough rate to make that provision cost-effective for the client and for them.

If licensing doesn't happen, all those costs go away. And thinking further ahead in terms of spending cuts, will that apply to all other enforcement and security agencies – is the private sector (and in particular the big boys) expecting a bonanza that will be ever-so-slightly impacted by licensing – and as so many police/security senior retirees (who had the ear of senior government

**Is something happening
behind the scenes that
is stopping us getting
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SIA fiddles with diversity
surveys as our hopes burn?**

and civil service officials when serving) jump into those big ships, what are they saying? We don't really know because they rarely, IF EVER, turned up at the consultations. No articles in the industry press. In fact, no open commentary on the introduction and impact of licensing at all. You know, that speaks volumes to me.

It's now two years since the Home Secretary announced licensing was coming, and coming by the end of 2014 – 8 months ago. The Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) and Lord Leveson also promoted and recommended it 'sooner rather than later', long before that later announcement. The SIA created their competency criteria in 2007, and the industry training bodies have had qualifications ready years ago, and have been delivering them for about 2 years. A lot of intelligent people with expertise in the field were consulted, and they provided opinions in open meetings and in smaller consultations – at which the larger contractors were noticeably absent (unless a Minister was present, spookily enough). Nor did they appear to give evidence at HASC or Leveson; if they made written submissions I'd have expected them to give oral evidence when we did.

So – what do you think? Is something happening behind the scenes that is stopping us getting our licences, while the SIA fiddles with diversity surveys as our hopes burn?

David Palmer FIPI

Letter

From Peter Finlay MIPI of PF Consultants

“You may feel my recent experience worth sharing with your members and inclusion in your next issue”

Although my primary activity is data recovery and forensic discovery, about 15 years ago I stepped sideways and qualified as a psychotherapist. I am now a member of BACP as an accredited practitioner. Although these two ‘careers’ may seem diverse, they have many parallels in as much as they both involve teasing information out of disturbed or damage sources, understanding behaviour by inference and looking beyond the explicit and apparent.

However, this is about a near miss with an alarmingly common scam that was tried on me in my therapy practice, although it could easily be in any service which is why I thought it worthy of sharing.

I had a new ‘client’ contact me with a view to helping his daughter. Not unusual but there was a clear reluctance to allow me direct contact prior to our sessions starting. He was keen to arrange a series of sessions and pay in advance for all of them – some £400. Prior to the start a cheque would be sent to cover the course and I was to notify as soon as it arrived. In due course a cheque did arrive, but for 3000eur. This is where the scam commences but fortunately, I was aware of the process: The expectation is that I notify the sender that an excess

The scam relies on you not realising that just because a cheque is credited to your account does NOT mean that the cheque has cleared

amount has been sent; I then am advised to bank the cheque and refund the overpayment. Simple: except in about 2 weeks when the cheque gets rejected by the issuing bank, I’m out of pocket for the difference. Close examination of the cheque revealed that it had no perforations and that the printing was very flat. An excellent facsimile but a fake all the same. A Google search reveals many instances of professionals getting caught by this as the presentation is very credible. It relies on not realising that just because a cheque is credited to your account does NOT mean that the cheque has cleared. This can take several days, if not a couple of weeks, as it has to be physically returned to the issuing bank for validation. The bogus cheque I received came from CHeXXinc in Germany, a good delaying tactic. Needless to say, the patient never materialised and the ‘father’ seems to have disappeared. The only true element of the episode

is that the perpetrators do indeed need treatment – although perhaps not the type that I normally dispense.

Editor replies: Thank you, Peter. As you can imagine, as a police fraud investigator I came across reports like this quite frequently, so here is some advice on fraud ‘generally’ which some may find interesting and informative, and may like to pass on to friends and family.

Elderly people tend to be repeatedly victimised by (for example) ‘TV warranty insurance scams’. Regardless of the approach, the modus operandi usually involves a telephone call to the victim to sell a non-existent but attractive policy or other service/gadget that the target is convinced is indispensable. Other examples include paying £50 to stop cold callers, ironically enough. The victim provides their debit card details, including the security number, and in time – usually well outside any legitimate cooling-off period offered by genuine providers - a letter arrives thanking the victim for their business.

continued>>

My experience with a close relative is that the letter provides interesting reading. If the company is a limited company it is usually a recent set-up - for example the contract date is very close to the company registration date. **Sign 1.** The postcode on the letterhead is different to that on the company registration and if it exists will be some miles from the address. **Sign 2.** There are no VAT details, and occasionally no company numbers on the document. **Sign 3.** Again, in a case close to my heart, there is an OIC registration number, but when you check the Register of Data Controllers there either isn't an entry, or the registration number is different, or the Register entry is for a completely different business. In 'my' case, a TV warranty company was registered as a travel agent. **Signs 4, 5 and/or 6.**

The telephone number is 0203 – the uninformed think this is a London geographical number but it is in fact a Skype number – which means anyone with an email address anywhere in the world with a laptop could be the subscriber. **Sign 7.** (Incidentally, you can buy a geographical number anywhere in the world, now, so even that is not a reliable lead.)

Any website check based on the provided information is either non-existent (**sign 8**), or has the classic fraudsters sign (**9**) of a contacts page which contains NO detail of the company's contact details (except the Skype number) but asks YOU to enter YOUR details into a contact 'screen'. I have met a few victims of those sites. (**Sign 10**)

Further signs came to light when the bank provided details of where my relative's money went. The British Limited Company had a Spanish IP address, a Spanish bank account and a payment clearing house in San Francisco. (**Signs 11 and 12**) but the bank thought this wasn't suspicious after their 'investigation'. (They need a PI course – they didn't even use open source to check the validity of the transaction and the business.)

A Google check invariably shows that the given address is an accommodation slot in a filing cabinet. (In one fraud, a Regus receptionist's desk cupboard was the actual destination of company mail, which was then forwarded to the defendant's home. Not even a slot!) **Sign 13.** A Google maps check will show the address in all its glaringly non-trading address glory.

Finally, the paperwork provided isn't even of the paper quality you'd expect of a genuine trader and in fact looks like it was printed in the suspect's bedroom.

Sign 14.

And yes, it is down to my elderly relative to convince the bank that this business is fake. If it wasn't for my experience, my relative would be one of thousands of victims who rely on their banks to protect them – naively.

Self Protection – Look after yourself!

By Richard Cumming FIPI

Since our last article on self-protection in summer 2014, the World has certainly not become a safer place, as recent events testify. Although we hope that our members work in relatively safe environments most of the time, it only takes one lapse of awareness in the wrong place...

Richard Cumming has an associate who is a professional in this field and who trains high profile clients in the whole spectrum of awareness, avoidance and ultimately disengagement both verbally and physically.

He is willing to provide initial advice to IPI members on any concerns that they may have for themselves or their clients in this critical area.

In this interview, we have Tri Tier founder Aran Dharmeratnam talking about this important subject. A leading expert in the defence tactics field, Aran specialises in close quarter skills and awareness training. As stated, he delivers training to high profile professionals from the financial, security and media sector.

Richard Cumming

Thanks for agreeing to do this interview Aran, which I think will be a much more informed follow-up to my comments in the summer 2014 Journal in which I made the observation that we should always

be aware of our surroundings and avoid putting ourselves in harm's way.

Just to set the scene, our members may be engaged on investigations ranging from crashed vehicles to crashed hedge funds, cold case murder reviews and just about everything in between. Therefore they can find themselves in many different environments from boardrooms to boarded up houses.

I understand that your self-defence protocols include threat recognition and avoidance, can you tell us a bit more about Tri-Tier and how it could assist our members in assessing risks?

Aran Dharmeratnam

Yes, thank you Richard for showing an interest in this area and for getting people, including trained professionals, to think about this subject from different angles. So what is Tri-Tier? Well without restricting what it is or boxing it in with a label, we could just say it is a multi- functional approach to training covering everything from tactics and



continued>>

strategies to performance and awareness plus areas such as movement, out of the box thinking or solutions, stillness and relaxation.

How Tri Tier is delivered and which of its core subjects are conveyed will depend on the professional framework of the individuals training in it. Some professionals might focus on the awareness and detection aspects; for others the more hands on tactical aspect might have relevance. Then we have modules focusing on how to maintain resilience when working in a fast paced stressful environment or to maintain calm and equilibrium under pressure.

In terms of the self- defence component, Tri Tier involves aspects gained from the martial arts, from defence tactics methods and even close quarter systems used around the globe; but I must stress that it really goes beyond this, taking knowledge I have acquired from other areas including criminology, security, negotiation, mind body skills and my own travels and experiences. Back to your other question on how it may be helpful to those in investigative roles, we do a lot of work on reading the road ahead; looking at awareness and how it can sharpened on a very human mind-body level. We also address disengagement and worst case scenarios and how they can be avoided.

RC

How do you approach the threat recognition angle?

AD

OK, so here we will identify the different types of threat one may be exposed to within their particular

We also address disengagement and worst case scenarios and how they can be avoided.

field or zones of movement - though we are focusing on confrontational threats and risks relevant to personal safety as opposed to general risk or health and safety. We will look at some of the indicators that convey the possibility of hostility or aggressive intent. With this we also look at surrounding environments and current global trends as well as various case studies.

Again the depth of this approach will also depend on the person's background. If someone has come from a particular security field or law enforcement setting, they may already have their own abilities and experience in these areas-so it may be a case of focusing more on the disengagement or other strategies. Or it's about giving those with previously acquired skills and extensive experience the chance to keep these skills sharp and address any areas they want to focus on.

RC

You have mentioned before that the next phase after avoidance, or if avoidance is not possible, is disengagement- so what are some of the areas you cover within this phase?

AD

Here people must assess and try and establish a sense of the state, intentions, level of threat and more specifically the objectives of the potential aggressors. Now despite my earlier remark about Tri Tier drawing from different fields including criminology, it must be said when it comes to reading potential aggressors - at the first stage where we must make a dynamic assessment - this needn't be a complex academic or cerebral process. Hostile individuals, unless we are talking about certain predatory aggressors, make their objectives fairly clear from an early stage. Also the fact is from childhood we learn to feel and gauge our environment and detect friend or foe. So the key to disengagement is upon making that rapid intuitive assessment; having a series of options, de-escalation strategies and a real-time awareness of the aggressor's behaviour. Then we have to apply the appropriate approach that will get one out of the danger without physical harm.

To some extent, some aspects of disengagement work follow a process but the real key lies in adapting to the constantly changing moment at hand. Tri Tier is all about adapting to the situation and unexpected; and sometimes disengagement requires unconventional quick thinking and an ability to prevent oneself being drawn further into confrontational scenarios. In short, training strives to foster an adaptive mind set and the ability to be

continued>>

elusive when needed. Essential factors include the ability to keep calm and not react emotionally or get clouded or disorientated by fear or the aggressor's intimidating behaviour. We can't deny fear, but we must not go into fear-driven reactivity mode and ignite the aggression.

Now to tie this in with those working in the investigative role, often the aggression is not coming from the subject under investigation; it's coming from those within the surrounding environment. In this case, you have to try and be elusive and in many cases, just flow around the problem as opposed to confront it head on in order to continue with the task at hand.

RC

Could you tell us Aran, what are some of the factors that present themselves should the situation escalate into physical violence? Many of our members for instance have come from police and military backgrounds and are very aware of the serious threat posed on our streets by knives and in some parts of the world other weapons.

AD

It's interesting that you mention the blade issue Richard, especially after a spate of recent urban stabbings mentioned in the media and, as you say, it's a serious threat. When I formulated Tri Tier's self-defence aspect I made sure that two components were taken into account when establishing the tactics – firstly, today we have to assume that in potential confrontation the aggressor may well be

We also have to take into account other street weapon such as bottles, sprays, and the different tactics that attackers may use.

armed. Secondly, there may be more than one opponent. This helped me to filter away a lot of techniques and tactics, focusing on mobility and efficiency.

In the different countries where I have trained, be it Russia or the Far East, and working with different close quarter experts and martial art masters, I have always kept the subject of edged weapon awareness close at hand and this is something we try to approach from different angles and quite extensively in Tri Tier. The system has also gained practical input and experience from those working in specialised tactical frameworks including high level close protection, Special Forces and Law Enforcement.

Alongside blade awareness and the multiple opponent factor another key factor - which most of the individuals I have worked with from the above areas would also most likely state - is that always maintain awareness of surroundings so that you don't get ambushed or caught in a space where there are no accessible exit points. We also have to take into account other street weapon such as bottles, sprays, and the different tactics that attackers may use. Thorough preparation and our

ability to not get caught off guard depend on our awareness of different approaches used by today's street aggressors. These can also vary across cultures and countries.

RC

Thanks for those observations, which will hopefully keep our members safe. I understand that you also offer personal protection coaching to executives and other high profile individuals which is particularly useful when they don't have access to a Personal Protection professionals, or such PPOs are off duty?

AD

Yes that's correct. I'm sure many of the readers know how to use movement and awareness to actually avoid most hostile situations. If we keep awareness sharp a great deal can be avoided but why a lot of high profile figures are keen in developing some practical skills is just as you said - they don't always get 24 hour close protection and at times, many travelling executives like other professionals have no CP teams escorting them unless they are going into high risk environments. They want to know whether on holiday with the families or on business travel or simply commuting from the city, they have some awareness of how to handle conflict. The corporate world both here and in the USA is also feeling the need to provide staff with more travel awareness and personal safety knowledge, particularly with the sporadic outbursts of violence occurring around the world.

continued>>

Another factor is that the physical aspect of training even if it's never really directly needed or applied, helps in other ways. It can heighten awareness and improve body movement, mobility and provide relaxation or resilience tools.

RC

Thanks for a very informative interview Aran. I'm sure that it will raise awareness of this important topic with our members. Should they have any points in relation to themselves or their clients would you mind fielding their questions?

AD

Thank you. I'd be happy to hear from them and perhaps in the future we can go into more detail on specific areas such as disengagement or edged weapon awareness.

To contact Aran:

Aran Dharmeratnam:

Tel: 07939 678 356

Email: office@tri-tier.com

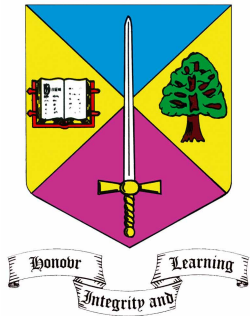
Mobile: +44 (0)7939 678 356

Tri Tier Training

Email: office@tri-tier.com

Website: www.tri-tier.com

AGM Notices



NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Professional Investigators will be held at 10.30am on Friday, 16th October 2015 at the Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ to transact the following business, within the Rules of the Institute:

Agenda

- (1) Principal's welcome
- (2) Minutes of last year's AGM
- (3) Matters arising
- (4) Report of the Treasurer
- (5) Education and Training - Deputy Principal
- (6) Election of Governors
- (7) Any other Business
- (8) To hear the Speakers

Speakers:

Neil SMITH - Open Source Intelligence

The Hon.Byron DAVIES MP, former Fellow of the Institute

12.30pm Principal's Reception

1 pm LUNCH at a cost of £20 per head, Guests welcome.

By Order of the Board of Governors

Simon Smith

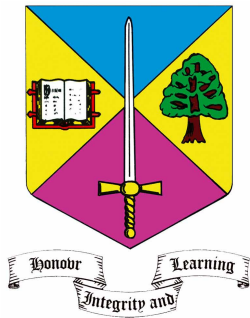
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Secretary General

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Nomination

In accordance with the Articles and Bye Laws of the Institute, we are required to hold an election of Board Members. The following is a Nomination Form; any proposed Board Member must have been an Institute Member for AT LEAST 2 years and be both Proposed AND Seconded by an Institute Member.



Nomination Form

(please return, Scan to E Mail or Fax by 1" October 2015)

I, _____ of _____

being a Fellow/Member, in good standing of the Institute of Professional

Investigators hereby nominate:-

Name

Address

A Fellow/Member of the IPI in good standing, to be a Governor of the Institute

Signed (Print Name)

Seconded (Print Name)

I Consent to Nomination

Signature (Print Name)

AGM Minutes

For the information of those attending and of those who cannot attend but may wish to proxy vote, here are the Minutes of the 2014 AGM.

Minutes Of The Annual General Meeting Of The Institute Of Professional Investigators

Held at the Civil Service Club of Great Scotland
Yard , Whitehall, London, SW1
17th October 2014 at 11 am.

The following Members were present:-

David Palmer, James Harrison-Griffiths, Brian Walker, Richard Newman, Richard Cumming, Richard Bradshaw, Richard Lee, Alan Roberts, Michael Pettit, Ruth Hoffman, Simon Smith, Andy Ryan.

We were joined by Honorary Members, David Pryke and Linda King after the formal business of the Meeting. Guests present were Dave Humphries, Head of Compliance at the Security Industry Authority, Mrs. Debbie Mallinson from IQ Limited, and Mr. Matt Flegg representing a Member.

Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:-

Paul Elliott
Peter Jones
Mike Welby
Mike White
Alan Marr

1. The Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting having been circulated, it was proposed by Richard Cumming seconded by Richard Bradshaw, that the Minutes be signed by the Principal. Resolution passed nem con.

2. The Accounts having been circulated, the Treasurer reported and highlighted the loss of Membership up to the end of March 2014 but that course income was up. The Treasurer reported that the situation had changed slightly since then with new Members and returning Members. It was proposed by James Harrison Griffiths and seconded by David Palmer that the Treasurer's Report and the Accounts be accepted. This was carried nem con.

3. The Secretary General's Report, having been circulated, was considered. It was proposed by James Harrison-Griffiths and seconded by Richard Newman that this be adopted and that was carried nem con.

4. There was then discussion from the floor in relation to ideas to increase membership and get matters organised. Following discussion from the floor, the following proposals were adopted:-

(a) That there should be a one-sided A4 sheet of paper that Members could issue to prospective Members and to colleagues explaining the advantages of the IPI.

(b) That overseas members should be given greater assistance and matters explained to them.

(c) Members introducing another Member should have the benefit of confirming that there will be no administration fee for those prospective Members introduced by an existing Member. This was agreed.

5. The Principal pointed out that Richard Newman had tendered his resignation from the Board and that subject to that the nominations having closed, the existing Board remained in place. Those who had previously been co-opted to the Board were then elected to the Board. This was carried nem con.

6. The Principal then presented two Fellowships to Richard Cumming and Simon Smith and two Honorary Memberships to David Pryke and Linda King, of Pelican Management, the former Management Company for the IPI who had retired. James Harrison-Griffiths having been

continued>>

unanimously elected as Principal then took the Chair and David Palmer, having been unanimously elected as Deputy Principal then stood down.

7. Mr Harrison-Griffiths then introduced Dave Humphries of the Security Industry Authority who explained the position in relation to Investigator Licensing. There was much discussion of this, but the general principle behind it seems to be that it awaits the Home Secretary's announcement, the Home Secretary having already indicated that 2015 would be the start date for licensing. After a lively discussion, it was concluded that the IPI had to stay on track as it was, we had a number of students who were waiting to take the SIA Approved Exam and we simply had to get on with it.

8. Mr. Harrison-Griffiths then introduced Mrs. Debbie Mallinson from IQ Limited, the Approved Body responsible for our course training and examination. Mrs. Mallinson explained the position in relation to the SAA, Of Qual and the framework for the Course and the examination. There was a further discussion and Mrs. Mallinson made clear that any additional requirements for licensing would have to be tackled within the existing system, and those involved in IPI training confirmed that this was feasible. We had, to some extent, "future proofed" our Course.

9. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 12 noon

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

The Board continues to work with Kerry London, the Insurance Brokers, to deliver a Professional Indemnity, and other bespoke insurances, at a very competitive price to Members.

It is early days from a results point of view and it is as renewal dates come up that Members will measure what they need against the offer.

We would seriously encourage all Members to look at Kerry London's proposal. Please contact admin@ipi.org.uk for further details.



Training Update

It's been several years, at least a decade we would estimate, since the Institute presented an instructional seminar and the Board would like to redress this situation by holding a seminar towards the middle of 2016. In that regard we would like to ensure as far as is practicable that the subject matter was not just relevant to the sector, but of relevance and interest to you, the membership. We need to time to organise the event that you want, and ideally in the location you would prefer, and at a cost you consider reasonable.

We therefore request that you take a moment to email the Institute at admin@ipi.org.uk with suggestions as to subject matter that you would consider worth paying a small fee to learn, and where you would be willing to go. We do not feel overly committed to London! Remember that these events can also be a social and networking event and worth the investment.

With that in mind, perhaps you could also consider whether you would like to provide a training session of your own? Perhaps you have a specialist service that you can market through delivery of an introductory session on that specialism? Perhaps you have an experience worthy of publicity and could put it across in half an hour or so? Perhaps you've identified a piece of legislation or investigatory practice that could give rise to debate?

And please don't forget that we already provide a short seminar on the examination requirements of IQ in terms of Data Protection, Health and Safety and Conflicts of Interest (which could make up part of the seminar if that was wanted). That event is held in parallel with IQ Award examinations every two months, the next being planned for October the 2nd at The Civil Service Club, a short walk from Charing Cross. Remember – the Institute can exempt a member from the 39 Guided Learning Hours requirement of a licence-related qualification, but we encourage exam candidates to attend this pre-exam seminar to cover the knowledge that is so easily overlooked when you've been in the sector for so long!

Legal Updates

The following pieces of legislation have come into being since our last issue and will be of interest to those affected.

Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015

“An Act to make provision about (among other things) improved access to finance for businesses and individuals; to make provision about regulatory provisions relating to business and certain voluntary and community bodies; to make provision about the regulation of companies; to make provision about company filing requirements; to make provision about the disqualification from appointments relating to companies; to make provision about insolvency; to make provision about the law relating to employment; and for connected purposes.”

Details at www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/26/contents

The Deregulation Act 2015

This Act has some provisions relating to insolvency (Ss 17-19) and the Administration of Justice (Ss 79 onwards).

Available at:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/20/contents/enacted

Readers will be pleased to hear that the Amendment of the Antarctic Act 1994 (Isle of Man) Order 1995 has been amended.

Board Meeting

The Board held a meeting on the 31st of July to discuss routine and emerging issues. The most important news is that the Institute's Distance Learning Course, which stands at 236 paid students, has been revamped by Duncan Place at www.itrap.co.uk and a new website is now live. There is now an improvement in the delivery – the questions have been ‘converted’ to multiple choice questions to assist the students’ preparation for the IQ examinations, and they will be expected to produce four documentary exercises that will enhance their capabilities as investigators.

As indicated in other pages, the Board wishes to explore the holding of a training seminar and asks that members contact us with suggestions as to the content. Without your input the event is unlikely to occur – we need speakers, subjects – and delegates!

Financially, the Institute is in a healthy position but we are not sitting back – we are exploring income generation all the time and our compliments go in particular to Secretary General Simon Smith FIPI for his efforts in that respect.

Why a Bullet Proof Vest May Not be Right for You

By Chris Taylor of Safeguard Armour

Body armour incorporates a wide range of protective clothing, and many automatically assume that a bullet proof vest is the most suitable and appropriate protection. However, even bullet proof vests include a wide range of options, and these may not be suitable for all; indeed, a bullet proof vest can hinder some and cause greater injury, completely defeating the purpose. For the majority of Private Investigators, a stab or spike proof vest is necessary.

Ballistic Protection is Only for Bullets

It is not commonly known that a bullet proof vest is designed only to protect against bullets. Whilst this seems like an obvious statement, many do not realise that a bullet proof vest cannot and will not protect against edged and spiked weapons, including knives, broken bottles, needles or stilettos. This is because of the materials used in bullet resistant armour. Kevlar™ is commonly known to be bullet proof, and is used in the majority of bullet resistant products. Kevlar is made from para-aramids woven into fibres and assembled into a sheet of fabric. This allows it to be soft, lightweight and flexible. However, these para-aramids are also incredibly strong, and can absorb and disperse energy at much greater rates than comparable materials like Steel. This means that when a bullet impacts upon it, the energy is dispersed across the vest, slowing the bullet to a complete stop.

This ability to absorb impacts is useful against all attacks, and a bullet proof vest will help mitigate the

It is not commonly known that a bullet proof vest is designed only to protect against bullets.

damage caused by blunt force from falling debris, unarmed attackers, or even vehicular accidents. This is why stab and spike proof vests still use the soft materials found in bullet proof vests, making them extra protective. However, an edged weapon will simply cut the para-aramid fibres, penetrating the vest easily. Similarly, a spiked weapon is capable of passing through the minute gaps between the fibres, again penetrating the vest. This is why a bullet proof vest can be an expensive, heavy and useless piece of equipment for Private Investigators.

We are fortunate in the UK to have far fewer firearms on our streets, both legal and illegal. While the presence of gun crime cannot be ignored, and attacks involving firearms continue to occur, the threat of edged and spiked weapons is far greater.

Weapons like knives, broken bottles, or needles are incredibly easy to obtain, and cannot by necessity be regulated in the same way firearms are. Moreover, both edged and spiked weapons can be just as deadly as firearms, and even with protection should be considered a very serious threat.

Covert and Overt Protection

The nature of a P.I.'s role often requires coming into close proximity with a wide variety of people, some of who may be aggressive and uncooperative. If you are required to track down an individual, you may be required to speak to the people close to them, who will most likely object to your involvement in their lives. It is therefore of the utmost importance for P.I.'s to protect themselves so that they can perform their job safely and confidently to the best of their ability. Of course, dealing with these belligerent individuals can be

continued>>

much more difficult if you are wearing the wrong body armour, as a visible stab proof vest can antagonise some.

Just as body armour is available with bullet, stab, or spike protection, it is also available in different styles. This means that even once you have chosen the appropriate method of protection, it is important to choose the most appropriate style of wear. The protective materials used in stab and spike proof vests is lightweight and flexible enough to be worn in both covert and overt styles, designed to be worn underneath or over clothing respectively. Each style has its own advantages and disadvantages, and the choice as to which is most appropriate has to reflect your own research and preparation.

Covert armour is a useful piece of equipment for many P.I.'s; dealing with potentially hostile individuals can be made much harder with the presence of body armour, but you cannot afford to sacrifice your protection. Covert armour is a comfortable option that allows you to remain protected by wearing the stab or spike proof vest discreetly under clothing. On the other hand, some have argued that the presence of body armour can help assert your authority and deter potential attackers in light of your readiness and preparation. However, it is likely that the inverse is true, and overt armour will invite attackers and antagonise or intimidate potential sources of information. Covert armour seems the best choice, and will allow you to feel safe, confident and discreet.

Whatever the choice, body armour has to reflect the individual's own research and preparation, and it has to be able to deal with any threats you are likely to face. However, for Private Investigators in the UK, being able to wear comfortable and discreet body armour that can prevent injury from knives, needles and similar weapons can be considered a necessity.

SafeGuard Armor

www.safeguardarmour.co.uk



Guest column - Frank China

Yet again we have an edict from the Ministry Of DEL from Brussels, which is a 'peach'. The next law to hit our shores is one that will ban us from photographing any geographical landmark, building or public work of art, Buckingham Palace, statues in open places etc., without express permission... What on earth does that mean you ask?

In the UK you are allowed to take photographs of modern buildings, or any permanent public artworks and use them however you wish, for personal or commercial reasons. This is evidently known as "freedom of panorama". Germany and Spain has the same freedom. But soon a directive issued by MODEL, the Ministry Of Daft Euro Laws, might kill this freedom for all the EU countries. Surely everyone has had enough

In France for example, it is illegal to publish photographs of the Eiffel Tower during daylight, but not photographs taken at night, crazy? Plain stupid. But the logic is that the Eiffel Tower having been up for over, I believe 70 years, makes it outside of copyright laws, however its current illuminations are inside copyright law period and the Eiffel Tower is off-limits, at night ... amazing. And Belgium is not immune from the ridiculous law, have a look at Belgium's Atomium on Wikipedia – its blacked out! Isn't it really time, if Europe wishes to be a Federal state, it started to act like a mature sensible State. I can understand why they wish for UK to stay a part of this 'colossus', 1000 years of independence and having managed the world's largest Empire, does give some credence to the UK's abilities ... but if public opinion is anything to go by, poor old Europe will have to remain 'poor old Europe' for many decades, even millennia, to come, without the UK, the EU never seems to be able to get anything right! And what is worse no other country seems to care!

Mind you, we in the UK are not immune to modern tendencies. A good friend of mine has just employed a new Personal Assistant, in the good old days, a 'high powered' Secretary! She starts on Monday, now should he greet her with, 'you look nice, welcome to the company', or maybe, 'you don't look very nice, hope you will look better tomorrow', or quite simply, 'pleased to see you', which is terribly impersonal and a little boring. To establish a relationship a nice complement is always

perhaps the best way to start anything, it makes people at ease, happy to know they are joining a friendly company. But somehow politeness has gone out of the window, if he says, 'you look very nice today', is that sexual harassment? The woman of the species always should look the best she can, she doesn't have to look like a film star, but a simple, 'you look very nice today', can often make her feel like one!



By the time you read this, the next Labour party leader will have been elected, were the polls right, if they were or were not, does it really matter as long as the UK remains a Democracy, there'll be other 'parties' who will fill the void, a democratic country will never be a one party state, the definition will not allow it. So really nothing to fear, perhaps only fear itself for any diminishing party and if the polls are right it looks like being a rough ride for Labour, there will be more splits than anyone can imagine ... in time, and probably not such a long time!

And as a final dig at the world, well not exactly the world but that rather funny organisation called the EU, this guy Junker seems to be running the EU and has told everyone that they must take an allocation of refugees. I am a simple guy, but does not the EU have a Parliament to debate such edicts and one would assume, vote on it rather like the British Parliament. If the EU does have a Parliament, maybe someone could tell me what it is meant to do! A lot of high paid guys, and of course gals, are elected in their own countries to form an organisation called the European Union's Parliament ... then what? Seemingly they are meant to consider how various motions put before them affect Europe, not how they might affect the country from where they are elected. It seems to me an EU Parliament is valueless, unless you no longer believe in your own country, am I correct?

Dates for your diary

(With thanks to Professional Security Magazine for doing the work.)

Oct 8: London Fraud Forum annual conference, SW1.

Oct 15: Association of Security Consultants conference, Heathrow. (www.securityconsultants.org.uk)

Nov 24th: Lone Worker Safety Expo, Olympia (www.loneworkersafetyexpo.com)

April 6-8, 2016. ASIS 15th European Conference, London.

April 21 2016: Retail Fraud, London www.retailfraud.com.

April 23 2016: ABI AGM, Liverpool.

Other items of interest

'Protecting the London Public Purse' is a report relating to fraud, commissioned by the London Boroughs' Fraud Investigators Group. Available at <http://lbfig.org>.

Institute of Professional Investigators

Annual General Meeting

11AM 16th October 2015

Civil Service Club, Scotland Yard, London



Confirmed Guest Speakers



Byron Davies MP – former IPI Member



Neil Smith of www.uk-osint.net on Open Source Intelligence (Confirmed)



Ray Clarke of Industry Qualifications Limited

and

Paul Champion ABI President
(Surveillance specialist – hence no photo!)

The Professional Investigator

Institute of Professional Investigators
Jubilee House
3 The Drive
Brentwood
Essex
CM13 3FR

Tel: 0870 330 8622
Fax: 0870 3308612
Email: admin@ipi.org.uk