

Security Industry Authority (SIA) Annual Report 2024 Summary

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By Carver Tedstone,
Anti-Crime Specialist

Who are the SIA?

The SIA is a public body sponsored by the Home Office. They were established under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (PSIA) to contribute to public protection by setting and improving standards in the regulated private security industry. The purpose of the SIA is to protect the public through effective regulation of the private security industry and working with partners to raise standards across the sector.

The PSIA covers licensable activities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and supports the Home Office priorities of reducing terrorism, preventing and tackling crime, and ensuring people feel safe in their homes and communities.

The SIA are responsible for:

- Licensing people who carry out certain activities in the private security industry
- Approving private security companies under the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS)
- Conducting inspections
- Monitoring and enforcement of the private security industry
- Setting and approving standards of conduct and training
- Improve standards



Summary:

The SIA presented its annual report to Parliament in November 2024, having met or exceed all key performance indicators.

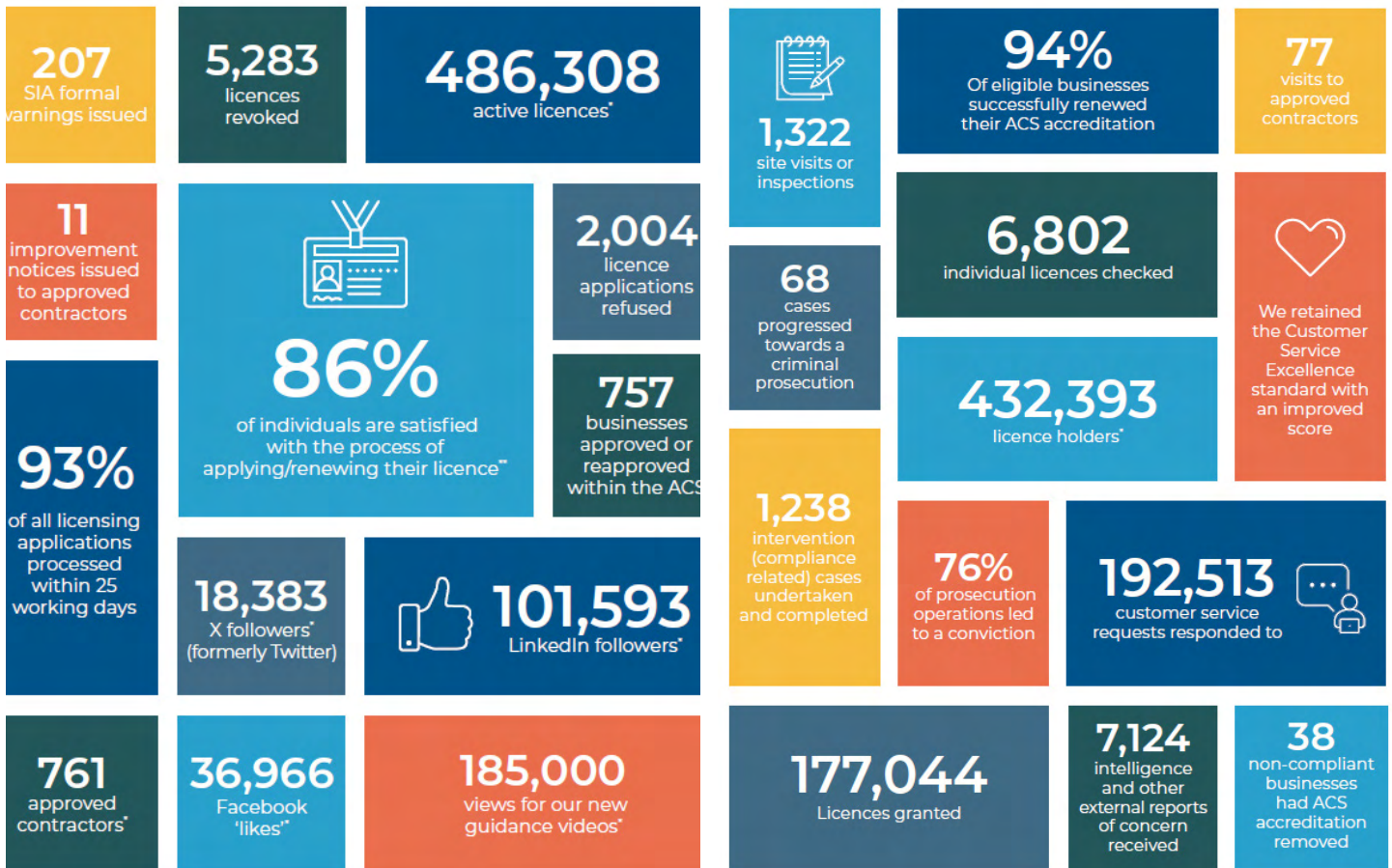
The SIA's annual survey revealed that 60% of felt safer with a private security presence at concerts, sporting events, banks, hospitals, venues within the night-time economy and retail premises.

The SIA embarked on two major three-year change programmes.

- The Digital and Data programme on online licensing and compliance work. services and processes.
- The voluntary business approvals scheme which will be grounded in public safety requirements.

Joint working with the Health and Safety Executive helped to take forward recommendations from the Manchester Arena Inquiry relating to enhanced First Aid training for security operatives. The SIA also introduced changes to training content related to the spiking of drinks.

The SIA has responded to public concerns about licence-linked training following media coverage of training malpractice by working with Ofqual, other regulators, government organisations and other partners to drive improvements in standards.



Key Points:

Difficult Economic Climate Driving Up Demand For Licences: In 2023-24, the SIA received 179,000 paid individual licence applications. This was the highest ever since licensing began in 2005. The SIA made between 11,897 and 16,512 licence decisions per month throughout the year. SIA insight suggests the current difficult economic climate has increased the number seeking to work in the security industry .

Tackling Training Malpractice: The SIA conducted 107 unannounced visits this year to training providers, and are working with Ofqual-approved awarding organisations, and the commercial training centres to stop malpractice and improve standards.

Compliance Inspections: During 2023-24 the SIA conducted 196 inspection operations. 46 of these operations were intelligence led. 150 were directed towards areas of risk identified in strategic assessment processes. 58 were led by partners, or in direct response to an issue highlighted by partners. In addition, our teams carried out checks on 500 individual licence holders during investigations.

Intelligence Gathering: The SIA processed 7,124 pieces of information and intelligence overall. Of these, 5,347 intelligence reports and concerns were related to strategic priorities or high-risk issues, which is an increase of 10% when compared to last year. The SIA continues to see a year-on-year increase in the proportion of high-risk intelligence. The SIA classed approximately 75% of all intelligence reports received in 2023-24 as high-risk intelligence.

Criminal Investigations: At the end of the year, the SIA had 49 live criminal investigations into 73 businesses and 182 individuals. 76% of cases resulted in a successful conviction. The SIA prosecuted 52 individuals and thirteen businesses. Prosecutions this year have resulted in over 48,000 of fines, cost orders in excess of 40,000, over 1,000 hours of unpaid work, and 42 weeks of suspended custodial sentences.

The SIA are a designated body under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). This year the SIA secured confiscation orders on 8,256 worth of assets.



Regulating effectively

We will improve our effectiveness by focussing on improved public protection outcomes as we operate a robust, risk-based, licensing and compliance regime.

Improving business standards

We will work with the industry to improve the standards security businesses work to and promote the value of good standards in security provision.



Regulating efficiently

We will provide value for money by spending well and being efficient in discharging our responsibilities and delivering our purpose.

Driving strategic partnerships

We will use our influence as a respected regulator and work jointly with key partners to secure compliance, drive higher standards and improved public confidence in private security provision.



Improving individual standards

We will ensure entry training and behavioural standards keep pace with public expectations and support the private security industry in taking responsibility for improving training standards further.

Supporting our people

We will support our employees to give their best, perform at the highest level, continually improve their skills and fulfil their potential to ensure that we meet our public protection aims and deliver high quality services.



Working with partners against terrorism

With the passage of the Terrorism (Protection of Property) Bill through Parliament, SIA strategic and tactical engagement with Counter Terrorism (CT) Policing across the UK continues to grow through dedicated Counter Terrorism Intelligence single point of contact (SPoC). This role provides the opportunity to demonstrate the SIAs functions and capabilities with regard to counter terrorism, and enhances capability from an intelligence and operational perspective.

The SIA successfully moved the ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) security specific eLearning within CT Policing's ProtectUK platform. This has the intended consequence of directing those within the private security industry towards their website and supports the government move towards mandatory ACT training.

The SIA are continuing to develop an information sharing agreement (ISA) with the National Counter Terrorism Intelligence Board. They also have a further police-initiated ISA nearing signoff with the PSNI.

Future strategy

The SIA is committed to reducing its impact on the environment in line with the Greening Government Commitments and will continue efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The SIA is working towards Net Zero by 2050. This includes increasing automated processes and reducing office space.



For more information about how our Anti-Crime Team can help you, please contact:

- Carver Tedstone, Anti-Crime Specialist
- M: 07876 547691 | E: carver.tedstone@ttaa.co.uk