

## » 1. What types of licences will the PSA issue?

The Private Security Authority will issue two types of licences:

- **Private Security Service Contractors Licence**  
( *applies to companies, partnerships and sole traders providing security services* )
- **Private Security Service Employee Licence**

Each licence will identify the sector(s) of the private security industry in which the licensee is authorised to operate and will be valid for two years.

The following are the sectors as listed in the legislation:

- door supervisor
- supplier or installer of security equipment
- private investigator
- security consultant
- security guard
- provider of protected forms of transport
- locksmith
- supplier or installer of safes

It is possible that, for the purpose of licensing, some of these sectors will be further sub-divided.

## » 2. How much will licences cost?

The Authority is currently developing the fees structure to apply to licensing. The Authority must become self-financing so licence fees must reflect the overall operating costs of the Authority. However the Authority is not a profit-making body and is currently exploring a number of options so as to get this balance correct.

## » 3. When will licensing start?

The PSA will start licensing the Private Security Contractors providing door security, security guarding and event security services from 1 October 2005. Licensing of the electronic sector will also commence in the fourth quarter of 2005. For those sectors of the industry for which there is no standard at present, the Private Security Authority will work with the National Standards Authority of Ireland and representatives of the individual sectors to develop appropriate standards which will enable the commencement of licensing for these sectors during 2006.

## » 4. What will I need to apply for a Private Security Contractors Licence?

The following must be produced in support of your application:

- Completed Application Form
- The Prescribed Fee ( *see item 2* )
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate
- A Certificate of Incorporation ( *for companies* )
- A Certificate of the Business Name where the trade or business name is not that of the beneficial owner of the business
- Completed Vetting Authorisation Form for each of the principals ( *directors of companies, partners in partnership, principal in sole trader* )
- Evidence of attainment of the required standard ( IS 999:2004 )

## » 5. What about licences for Private Security Employees?

Work is ongoing on developing the strategy for this category of licence but, as with the Contractors Licences, each Employee Licence will identify the sector in which the licensee is qualified to work.

The following will be required in support of an application for a Private Security Services Employee Licence:

- Completed Application Form
- The Prescribed Fee ( *see item 2* )
- Two passport size photographs
- Completed Vetting Authorisation Form
- Evidence of having attained training qualifications relevant to the sector(s) for the licence is applied.

In terms of training, the Authority is currently examining all relevant training courses in light of the needs of the industry. Although not specified in legislation the Authority will require licence applicants to obtain a nationally recognised qualification (accredited by FETAC). Such a qualification could be recognised as the entry route to a higher qualification and provide for career progression within the industry. Work is ongoing in formulating an appropriate training framework which recognises the needs of the main sectoral areas. As part of this work the Authority is also examining how best to recognise the learning of those who have been working in the industry for many years but never received a formal educational qualification.