



International Foundation
for Protection Officers

Knowledge to Protect

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IFPO UK Joins Security Commonwealth

At the most recent meeting of the Security Commonwealth, IFPO UK's application to join was approved unanimously, having previously been recommended by the SyCom Board.

[Sycom](#) is an over-arching umbrella organisation which currently comprises of over 40 independent membership bodies across the security profession. It provides a forum to consult, inform and co-operate in the common interest and in the promotion of professionalism, best practice and information sharing to enhance UK security under the banner 'together we are stronger'



Our acceptance as a member is another sign of our growing recognition with the sector.

We look forward to working collegiately with the other SyCom members.

Please follow us



Lest we forget

COVID-19 is limiting the opportunity to mark Remembrance Day in the usual way. It will also mean reduced fundraising opportunities for charities supporting veteran and their families

IFPO UK will be launching some initiatives shortly, but please wear your poppy and look to ways to support. There are a number of charities listed on the [IFPO App](#), but you can donate to the Poppy Appeal [here](#)



PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
THOSE WHO
SERVE.

The latest report from the Security Research Initiative – **‘Understanding influences on security as a career/job choice: what those working in the security sector think’** was published on 4th November

- ⇒ Only 4% of respondents heard of work in security through a careers talk at school/ college/university; the most prominent source of awareness was from a suggestion by a friend, colleague or family member (35%).
- ⇒ 78% of respondents were attracted to a career in security due to the commitment to protecting people and organisations.
- ⇒ 83% of respondents believed security is thought of as an ‘industry’ rather than a ‘profession’
- ⇒ 11% of respondents entered security to gain experience to then leave security and pursue another career; but 68% of those individuals indicated they now intend to remain in security.

The aim of the work was to better understand what makes security attractive to recruits and why; and how security can improve its image and present itself as a valued contribution to working life. The report is based on a survey and in depth interviews with security professionals.

The report identifies that one of the main reasons people don’t enter a security career is because they don’t know about the vast variety of roles available, the value of the work, or the benefits to be gained; the majority end up in security by chance. Many myths about security work remain – not



least that it is only about ‘manned guarding’ and that it is only for ex-police or ex-military. While, sadly, some frontline roles are low paid, this disguises the fact that many people find commercial security work more lucrative than alternatives, something that inhibits attracting experienced workers but also igniting the interest of those embarking on their first career steps. More effort is needed to challenge negative and out-dated perceptions and to promote the benefits.

Professor Martin Gill who led the research noted:

‘People don’t join the security sector because they don’t know about it. That is damning. Those who do generally reflect very positively noting that it is varied, important and even lucrative. Our task is to ensure that this is no longer a well kept secret.’

The Security Research Initiative is sponsored by the security sector (buyers and suppliers), and involves an annual study. The reports are made available free of charge in order to provide a more informed information base about the workings of the security sector. (<https://perpetuityresearch.com/securityresearch-initiative/>)

We have been seeing a good deal of interest in IFPO membership and education programs in Ireland.

To recognise this interest and to promote further the IFPO mission of education and career development we will be launching IFPO Ireland with this new logo, dedicated Irish membership certificate and lapel pin. This will be spearheaded by Advisory Board Member Garry Bergin CPOI. More on this in the weeks ahead.



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IFPO UK News

As we continue to expand we are delighted to have two new additions to our Advisory Board.

Garry Bergin PC; MSc; FSyl; F.ISRM; CPOI®; EMII-M; M.Sec.I.I

is a Peace Commissioner appointed by the Minister for Justice and Equality in Ireland, Garry is a highly qualified and experienced security professional, with over two decades of security management experience across a variety of security industry sectors. He holds an MSc in Security Management and is currently studying towards a Professional Doctorate at the University of Portsmouth focussing on the development of training syllabuses for the security industry internationally. Garry currently works as a Commercial Manager and Security Consultant at Manguard Plus. He has extensive security operations management experience and has previously managed some of the largest multi-national security contracts in Ireland.



- Current Vice-Chair of ASIS Ireland (Chapter 216)
- Director, Board Member and Lecturer with the Security Institute of Ireland (Since 2011)
- Fellow of the Security Institute (FSyl)
- Fellow of the Institute of Strategic Risk Management (F.ISRM)
- Member of the SIA Expert Committee on Close Protection
- IFPO Certified Protection Officer Instructor (CPOI®)

Les Allan is one of the most experienced leaders in the security profession today. With 43-years of dedicated service in police, government and senior security roles he is an inspirational team leader and a persuasive advocate for investment in the sector. Currently serving as Director of SafeGuarding Services at Heriot-Watt University.



He has helped spread best practice across the wider university sector, speaking at conferences, contributing to professional journals and encouraging collaboration with government and law enforcement agencies.

Les acts as a mentor to those just beginning their careers and is actively investing in the next generation of professionals working to progress up the ladder. Les shares his time generously too, taking on committee roles in associations and participating in professional networks. This year Les will serve as the incoming Chair of the Association of University Chief Security Officers (AUCSO).



The International Foundation for Protection Officers is launching a major research project :

Exploring the Modern Role and Job Complexity of Security Officers.

The objectives of this project are to understand:

- the range of duties undertaken by security officers the range of tasks they are they responsible for
- the types of tasks they find the most difficult
- the types of tasks they find the easiest
- the complexity of these various tasks
- the skills required to complete various tasks
- the knowledge required to complete various tasks
- the tasks they undertake from the common to the rare
- the extent and ways in which tasks undertaken overlap those of other workers

The hope is that this research will inform decision making in the sector and help improve the career path for those the frontline. Details [here](#)

Corporate Membership

Corporate Membership is designed to benefit both vendors of security services and organizations with in-house teams. It provides tangible recognition as an official corporate member in a professional organization and includes:

- ♦ Use of the Corporate Member logo
- ♦ Exposure through PR and social media
- ♦ 1 professional development program
- ♦ 15% discount on all IFPO Programs and services

- ♦ IFPO Corporate Membership Certificate
- ♦ Corporate Membership includes 20 Individual Memberships



Corporate Member

Currently, **Corporate Membership is £575** for the first year and £350 for subsequent years.

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Help us keep you up-to-date by downloading the IFPO UK app. You can access security news, our blog, social media, links to security and wellbeing resources and we are adding new content regularly. Scan the QR code below or visit the [download site](#).

