



The Security Institute is the UK's largest Professional membership body for security professionals, with over 4,700 members. Since 2000, The Security Institute has been working to promote the highest possible standards of integrity and professional competence in the business of security. Membership of The Security Institute gives credibility, enhances career prospects, provides a network of excellent contacts, and offers continual professional development and a wide range of networking opportunities.

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The Security Institute Annual Conference 2023

On Thursday 26th October 2023, The Security Institute hosted their Royal Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at their Annual Conference.

Held in the Edwardian building that has served as the home of the Royal Society of Medicine since 1912, the conference provided a proportionate blend of learning and networking opportunities for two hundred Institute members and distinguished guests.

The Security Institute Chair, Julie Nel MSyl, opened the conference and promptly invited The Security Institute's President, Baroness Ruth Henig of Lancaster CBE, to share her considerable insight and sector knowledge and she, as always, left the audience with much to reflect upon.

What followed throughout the day was engaging, thought provoking, and meaningful discussion around the evolving challenges that lie ahead for the public and private security profession.

As should be the case, the conversation commenced with a senior representative from the National Protective Security Authority sharing the strategic perspective

on the adversarial threat assessment and showcasing a library of tools to help the security practitioner address the subsequent risks.

After a busy networking session over a cup of coffee, the delegates returned to the auditorium to listen to Rob Kennedy CSyP FSyl, from the Protective Security Centre, debate the need to develop tomorrow's security professionals. Chairing a panel of experts, they discussed the merits of a Level 4 Apprenticeship that converges the four traditional strands of protective security to provide the student with an awareness across the profession for those at an early stage of their career.

Toward the end of the day, the conference delegates were reminded of the consequences of a successful terrorist attack when Pauline Cranmer QAM recited her personal experience of being the London Ambulance Service Gold Command during the Westminster Bridge terror attack that occurred on 22nd March 2017. She spoke of her learnings when coordinating the emergency medical response to an incident that resulted in the loss of life for five members of the public and one on-duty police officer who was protecting the Houses of Parliament.

On arrival, and accompanied by Mr Stuart Shilson LVO DL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of London, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was met by The Security Institute Chair, Julie Nel; Vice chair, Sarah Austerberry; Interim Chief Executive, Frank Cannon; and the Institute's Board Adviser, Bob Martin. Prior to taking her seat for the afternoon session, The Princess Royal met with several of the conference speakers; a selection of those who chair The Security Institute's Special Interest Groups, as well as selected members of the Institute's head office staff.

Her Royal Highness then joined the conference and listened to an informative session from Michelle Russell, the Chief Executive Officer of the Security Industry Authority, during which she set out how the industry regulator aims to help prepare the industry to protect our communities and raise professional standards across the profession.

This session was followed by Mike Croll who is a Senior lecturer at Buckingham New University. Mike took the conference audience on a fascinating and humorous journey of generational communication styles, illustrated through music, methods of communication, and the choice of underwear! Whilst satirical in nature, Mike and his panel highlighted the diverse styles required when communicating across the generations, from the Baby Boomers, through the Millennials and Generation Z, to today's Gen Alphas.

When addressing conference delegates immediately after Mike's panel session. Her Royal Highness spoke to the assembled security professionals with knowledge, empathy, and humour — often having to pause to allow the laughter to subside. The fifteen-minute speech proved to be the highlight of the conference with The Princess Royal weaving in her obvious understanding of the need to protect those at risk with her personal experiences, and those developed whilst supporting her charitable organisations.

Acknowledgement was also given to the lengths the Security Institute is taking to ensure, that on a broad spectrum, including Governmental, it is assisting in the development of standards for the expanding professional security sector.

Before departing, The Princess Royal had the opportunity to meet with some of the corporate partners and sponsors of the annual conference. One highlight was the search dog in training Obi, who was impeccably behaved as they met with Her Royal Highness. The Princess Royal concluded her visit by meeting with Stuart Bratt, the founder of 'Tough Enough to Care', a suicide prevention charity and The Security Institutes chosen charity for this conference; for which a useful sum of £3645 was raised through a raffle and auction. (<https://toughenoughtocare.help/>)

The conference concluded with Sarah Austerberry CSyP FSyl (Vice Chair of the Security Institute) and Frank Cannon CSyP FSyl (Interim Chief Executive) providing the membership with an insight and opportunity to ask questions about The Security Institute's future strategy.

Proceedings closed with a lively and congenial networking session full of rich and meaningful debate around the value of predictive analysis and early intervention to stop the domino effect, whilst being prepared to deal with the consequences of a successful attack.

As always, the members left the venue with a smile on their faces, the glow of rekindled relationships, and the anticipation of returning home safely in the knowledge that they were better people for having attended The Security Institute's 2023 Annual Conference.

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