



The Security Institute is the UK's largest Professional membership body for security professionals, with over 4,800 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 huge network of excellent contacts and offers continual professional development as well as a wide range of networking opportunities and events.

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The Security Institute Annual General Meeting 2024

On Wednesday the 24th of April the Security Institute held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the prestigious Victory Services Club, a unique military members club in the heart of London at the historic Marble Arch which routinely hosts members of the Armed Forces, NATO and the Commonwealth.

The Security Institute Chair, Julie Nel MSyI, opened proceedings with a thoughtful and considered address. She first acknowledged the passing of our late President, the much-loved Baroness Ruth Henig CBE JP DL, before proposing a scholarship in her name aimed at supporting disadvantaged young people and helping them get into the security industry. This proposed scholarship will have at its core the idea of inclusivity, with 50% of awardees to be female. The proposal will first await the late Baroness Henig's family's approval.

Further into her address, the Chair highlighted the difficulties and challenges that the Institute currently faces, and what we as an organisation are putting into place to address them. In particular, this included our three new organisational pillars of Influence, Membership and Professionalisation.

The Chair was then followed by Director Carl Dakin CSyP FSyI, who spoke of the need of appointing a non-executive director (NED) as Treasurer as well as the reorganisation of the current audit committee into an Audit, Risk and Remuneration Committee (ARRC) to address the Institute's financial concerns.

Afterward, Director and Vice Chair of the Security Institute Sarah Austerberry

CSyP FSYI addressed the aforementioned pillars and how the Institute would engage each of them going forward. Chief among them was the Institute's approach to its Membership, with member surveys revealing where we could improve as an organisation and what practical measures we can take, such as building a new website, reviewing our community platform and fostering a more open and seamless approach to our communications both within and between the Institute and its members.

Secondly, the Vice Chair spoke of the ongoing need to push for greater professionalisation in the field, which The Security Institute is committed to providing in collaboration with Government bodies and like-minded institutions. Lastly, she then spoke of Influence – of mapping our community, understanding our voice in each area of it, and the current review of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

Next was CEO Prof. Simon Hepburn's speech, which addressed the key concerns the Institute faces internally, chief among them our structure, digital presence (including our all-new website) and the pressing need to modernise in an ever-shifting climate.

Professor Hepburn was then proud to be able to unveil the results of our Director's Election. A heartfelt congratulations to the winners Chris Stevens CSyP MSyI, Paul Wood CSyP FSYI and Mike O'Neill CSyP FSYI, and our great appreciation to all of those who put themselves forward for the role. In Professor Hepburn's words, any of the nominees would have been an excellent choice and the Security Institute is ever grateful that we have such talent and expertise within our ranks.

Proceedings then closed with a first Board meeting featuring the new directors along with a spirited and congenial networking session full of interesting discussion and insight into the year gone by.

It has been a year of change and of challenge, but we as an organisation look forward to the rest of the year with a keen sense of optimism and to take those challenges head-on as the foremost professional membership body for security professionals in the UK.

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