LEON GUARDING

Security, compliance and risk intelligence from Leon Guarding & FM Limited

Issue 8 | August 2026

LEON INSIDER

THIS MONTH

The SIA opens its consultation on what every licence holder will have to learn — and how they will have to prove it. Plus two significant developments for Leon Guarding.

LEAD STORY | THE BIGGEST SHAKE-UP OF SECURITY TRAINING IN YEARS

On 28 August the SIA launched a public consultation on proposed changes to licence-linked qualifications and the prerequisites for obtaining a licence. It is the culmination of the strategic review that began in late 2025, and the SIA is clear that some people will need to do more training than they do now.

The headline proposals

- Updated knowledge and skills specifications setting new content requirements for the training behind every licence
- A change to English language assessment, including an additional independent test to give greater confidence in communication skills
- A new security-specific first aid qualification, aligned more closely to the kinds of incidents security operatives actually encounter

Also on the table

- A new licence condition requiring close protection operatives, door supervisors and security guards to hold a valid first aid certificate at all times
- Whether close protection licence holders should still be able to perform other licensable activities through licence integration
- Whether trainers delivering SIA licence-linked training should be required to hold an SIA licence for the sectors they teach

Timeline: the consultation closes at 11:59pm on Friday 23 October 2026. Final specifications are due in winter 2026, with new qualifications launching later in 2027.

Our view. The first aid proposal is the one to watch. A standing licence condition to hold a valid certificate would move first aid from a one-off training box into an ongoing compliance obligation, with renewal tracking to match. Employers who already manage certification centrally will absorb it easily. Those who do not will find it expensive.

These are proposals, not rules. Current requirements stand unchanged until the SIA confirms otherwise — and anyone with an interest can respond.

Source: GOV.UK, SIA consultation, 28 August 2026

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FOLLOW-UP | THE BIIAB DEADLINE HAS PASSED

As reported last month, 10 August was the cut-off for BIIAB to issue any licence-linked qualifications, following the SIA's termination of its recognition agreement after Operation RESOLUTE inspections uncovered training malpractice.

If you have officers who were mid-course and did not complete before that date, their qualification will not be recognised and they will need to retrain through one of the five remaining awarding organisations. Check now rather than at renewal.

BY THE NUMBERS

23 October 2026
deadline to respond to the qualifications consultation

Winter 2026
publication of final qualification specifications

2027
new qualifications go live

5
awarding organisations now recognised by the SIA

Source: GOV.UK, SIA and Ofqual, August 2026

FROM LEON GUARDING

Appointed to the ESPO 347-26 Site Security Services framework

Leon Guarding has been appointed to the ESPO 347-26 Site Security Services framework. The appointment opens the door to public sector security contracts across the UK, giving councils, schools, housing providers and other public bodies a compliant, pre-tendered route to our services.

For public sector buyers, framework appointment removes the need to run a full procurement exercise. If your organisation buys through ESPO and has a security requirement coming up, we would welcome the conversation.

New partnership | Rent a Van 365

We are pleased to announce a partnership with Rent a Van 365, delivering professional out-of-hours manned guarding across their fleets and premises — protecting vehicles and sites once their own teams clock off.

Vehicle fleets are a standing target outside working hours, and the cost of a single overnight loss usually exceeds a year of proportionate guarding. It is a good example of security sized to the actual risk window rather than to the clock.

In the community | HOPE Family Barking food bank

Alongside the news above, our team continued its monthly volunteering at the HOPE Family Barking food bank, supporting local families as we have done every month since last year.

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PRACTICAL TIP | GET AHEAD OF THE FIRST AID CHANGE

Whether or not the standing first aid condition is adopted, the direction is clear. Certification is moving from a training record to a live compliance status — the same journey licence checking made a decade ago.

Worth doing before winter

01 Pull a list of every deployed officer with their first aid certificate expiry date

02 Identify how many expire in the next twelve months, and whether you have training capacity booked

03 Decide who owns renewal tracking — the officer, the supervisor, or the system

04 If you buy security, ask your provider for this list for the officers on your sites

Responses to the consultation are open to employers and buyers of security, not just licence holders. If the proposals would create a practical problem in your operation, now is when to say so.

Leon Guarding tracks first aid certification alongside SIA licence status and training records in INDEL, with expiry dates flagged ahead of renewal so cover is arranged before a certificate lapses.