

## Introducing: **The Guild of Security Industry Professionals.** (Everything You Want To Know About GoSIP!)

You may have heard mention of a new initiative set up recently to benefit UK front line security industry workers, but what is the Guild of Security Industry Professionals, who is behind it, and what is it trying to achieve?

We asked the GoSIP founders, and yes they are the same guys behind TPSO magazine, for the full story.....

At the start of 2018, two front line Security Officers with nearly 60 years in the industry between them, Michael O’Sullivan and Rollo Davies, decided that enough was enough and all the complaining about the state of Security wasn’t going to change anything. The protection sector is vitally important, and both Mike and Rollo took pride in their work, and wanted to do something positive to counter the disgusting perception of the “minimum wage slob”. Something desperately needed to be done, and waiting around for somebody else to do it seemed futile.



Rollo was already quite a widely followed social media commentator on all things security, and in 2011 had even set up a Trade Union in an attempt to help fellow Security Officers and promote and strengthen employee rights. To his great disappointment the “National Security Worker’s Union UK” never achieved the membership numbers needed to make it a success and had to be dissolved after just a few years. Still determined to make a difference, he was only too pleased to get involved when an old friend that he worked with in the early 1990s, called him up out of the blue..... with an idea!

The guy with the big idea, was one Michael O’Sullivan.

Mike left the French Foreign Legion after 5 years’ service, and returned to London getting a job as a security supervisor for the now long departed, Thorn Guarding. Rollo left the Metropolitan Police just after and ended up working as a supervisor on an opposite shift to Mike at the same site. Mike was already a published writer with several magazine articles under his belt. He was also clearly passionate about the security industry, rapidly developing an encyclopaedic knowledge of relevant legislation, best practice and the psychology displayed by effective professionals. Mike and Rollo quickly recognised like minded individuals.

Circumstances change and people drift apart, however Mike left it a good 25 years before picking up the phone to put a suggestion to his old friend.

Mike’s initial idea was to start a magazine for front line security industry professionals. There were publications out there already, but none were aimed at the rank and file, so The Professional Security Officer magazine (TPSO), was born.

- It had to be free.
- It had to be relevant.
- It had to be informative.
- It had to be high quality.
- But most importantly, it had to be of genuine interest to the target reader, You.

So, the first part of a much bigger plan was set in to motion.

## **Bigger plan?**

Publishing TPSO magazine started to get the guys noticed and they rapidly made a lot of influential contacts. Contacts whose help and support was very welcome, freely given, and which would be essential down the line.

TPSO magazine grew in popularity internationally and generated a great deal of good will, but was not the final answer that would lead to genuine change or industry improvement. It was doing a good job, but our front-line security colleagues needed a unified voice, and the industry needed a powerful new entity to ensure that they would not continue to be ignored.

So, 2 years after the launch of the magazine, on the 1st of August 2020, that unifying organisation was launched and the next step towards security industry improvement was taken.

The Guild of Security Industry Professionals or GoSIP, is a peer support network. A network of like-minded operatives, proud of the work that they do, and in line with recent industry initiatives, wanting to change perceptions of the industry and secure the appreciation and reward, rightly deserved for their vital roles.

What's in the name? The term "Guild" was selected to reflect the well-recognised classic meaning; a group of practitioners from a particular trade, working together to set standards and agree on the future evolution and direction of their profession. A perfect fit. We very deliberately used the term "Professionals" as we cannot expect the general public to view us as such if that's not how we refer to ourselves! Change starts here, and the term "security guard" needs to be dead and buried. We view ourselves as professional "Security Officers" and if that's how you feel, you need to join us!

**The Guild was established to perform several important jobs:**

- To assist with the personal career development of its members, with advice, FREE training and CPD, and hugely discounted, relevant courses from some of the most respected companies in the UK.
- To establish a professional "Code", to highlight our members as engaged and committed security professionals to their peers, to the general public and to perspective employers.
- To campaign on important issues that affect front line workers on a daily basis: Violence against security officers, Key worker status, Single manned doors, Training standards and malpractice, Lack of body worn video and many more....
- To challenge negative misconceptions about security officers and their roles that appear in the press and media, and to provide an alternative positive narrative.
- To increase professionalisation of our industry by lobbying the SIA and OFQUAL for vital improvements in training, testing and marking. We want this to help to prevent incompetent individuals from achieving an SIA licence in the first place. This will help to reduce situations that create such a negative impression of Security in general, and prevent it from achieving the respect that is due.
- To finally give a voice to hundreds of thousands of men and women about the future of their industry.

The Guild is working to create a future where front-line security professionals are highly paid, valued by employers and end users, regarded as "professionals" by the general public, and in receipt of the respect that the responsibility they carry demands. We also want the role of Security Officer to become a highly desirable career choice for motivated and intelligent individuals.

Yes, there is a very long journey ahead, but forming the Guild was a very big first step and the bigger the membership, the faster it can reach its goals.

Those influential contacts that I mentioned earlier have turned in to powerful support from organisations such as the Security Institute, the NAHS, the IFPO, the ISRM to name but a few. This support means that we are listened to by the people that matter, and we absolutely, positively, cannot be ignored or marginalised.

So it all sounds great right, but what's the catch? Is this really all about making money for someone? What's the hidden agenda?

Well as money making schemes go, the Guild needs some work. Security Officers are not well paid generally so recognising this, all members get their first 12 months completely FREE! After that the subscription fee shoots up to £12.75p!..... To clarify.... That's PER YEAR, not per month, and will be fixed for a minimum of 5 years!

It simply helps us cover our operating costs, just, and we think that most of our members will be able to find £1.06p per month. For those that are having financial problems, talk to us. We can reduce or even waive subs if required.

## **The Guild is about making a difference. Not making money.**

So, if the GoSIP is not a money-making plot, who are really pulling the strings?  
Big business maybe?

The Guild of Security Industry Professionals has not received a penny, at time of writing, from any external source. The founders, Mike and Rollo, still work full time in front line security roles and somehow manage to run the Guild and indeed TPSO magazine in their spare time. Which isn't much! Rollo is a paid brand ambassador for a company called Wagestream, because they do great work and help a lot of front line security colleagues with their charity backed income streaming system, but they have no view about the direction of the industry and other than cheering us on, have no input in the GoSIP.

So that's about it.

A couple of UK Security Officers with a lot of support and a great idea are trying to make the industry better and create a more rewarding and desirable career for all SIA licenced and in-house security industry professionals.

Many will not join the Guild because they simply can't be bothered. Many will be too suspicious and cynical to get involved..... I wish these colleagues all the best because regardless of any heart felt misconceptions they may have, the hard work that Mike & Rollo are putting in to improve the industry, and the real change that our unified membership can help instigate, will benefit us all.

Be Safe....

## **The Guild of Security Industry Professionals.**

**“Working Together for a Better Future.”**

**Website: [GSIP.co.uk](http://GSIP.co.uk)**

**Email Mike at: [Admin@GSIP.co.uk](mailto:Admin@GSIP.co.uk)**

**[#HelpUsHelpYou](#) [#NothingToLose](#) [#EverythingToGain](#) [#GoSIP](#)**