

Derek McDonald, an Associate of SafeGuard, has worked within the electronic security industry since 1982 on a global basis, delivering and advising on a wide range of diverse and complex projects. He has been an independent security consultant since 2012.

Derek joined SafeGuard Security Consultants in 2020 to provide expert witness and litigation services in the areas of Thermal CCTV (VSS) (installation, systems, analysis and imagery).



After completing an electrical and electronic technician apprenticeship at HMD Rosyth, Derek entered the electronic security industry in 1982.

In 1984 Derek joined the Directorate of Naval Shore Telecoms (DNST) where he gained experience in on-line cryptography, main-frame computing and telecommunications networks.

Derek joined the Directorate Communication Services Agency (DCSA) in 1998, moving to Germany where he gained invaluable experience in customer care and project management. Initially as Maintenance Manager, supporting multiple customers and projects in Western Europe, he progressed to Head of Integrated Projects, building an organisation of 70 staff to deliver all IT and Communications projects for Western Europe.

Returning to UK in 2004, Derek became Deputy Head, DCSA (North), heading a team delivering all IT and Communications projects and call desk services for Northern UK.

In 2007 Derek joined Security Services Group, MoD, heading the Security Services Group Advisory team for Scotland and NI, advising on appropriate protective security measures for Royal Residences and the very highest value Military, NHS and nuclear sites within the UK. Throughout his career liaison with various agencies vested with security and counter-terrorism responsibilities was normal.

Significant projects undertaken included the refresh and upgrade of numerous key national infrastructure sites, including nuclear reprocessing site security systems, missile storage sites, Royal Residences, armouries and ammunition stores and high secure hospitals. Systems included perimeter security, security control rooms, CCTV, thermal imaging and full integration of all systems.

Since 2012 Derek has acted as an independent consultant, working with many companies providing technical consultancy services. Projects undertaken include the refresh of security systems at Broadmoor High Security Hospital, BAe Systems Barrow-in-Furness and a new installation at DPW London Gateway Port.

More recently Derek has been responsible for the creation of operational requirements and technical specifications for a fully integrated security system including CCTV, thermal imaging, perimeter systems, Staff attack and Control Room for a high secure hospital.

He has also advised on the design of a new medium secure hospital for adolescents, working to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Ministry of justice (MoJ) Standards.

Derek is a Director and Board Member of the Association of Security Consultants