

**THE REPORT OF THE DANIEL MORGAN INDEPENDENT PANEL  
THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR RECOMMENDATION  
PRESS RELEASE  
THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH INVESTIGATORS LTD (ABI) <sup>1</sup>**

Although Daniel was never a member of the ABI, his brother Alistair took some comfort in the interaction with the ABI and its small part in keeping the tragic story alive by its onward publications over the years of news items as events unfolded from one disappointment to another, culminating in the Independent Panel's report.

A relatively minor issue to the report's purpose is the reference to the recommendation that the Home Office finally implements business licensing for investigation in the private sector. This appears at page 1022 paras 36-38.

Similar recommendations in the Leveson Inquiry Report and before that The Parliamentary Home Affairs Select Committee Report, both published in 2012, did not result in any government sponsored regulation.

The prospect of licensing has been the curtain of convenience hiding a wave of inactivity by numerous institutions for the past 20 years since the Private Security Industry Act 2001 introduced the pathway to licence investigations with competency <sup>2</sup>, criminality, identity and the right to work being tested.

The ABI has steadfastly maintained a working self-regulatory regime, improving standards and good practice policies not present elsewhere in the UK investigation industry.

In the wake of the report and with the opportunities readily present in the UK General Data Protection Regulation <sup>3</sup>, the ABI sincerely believes that with good will and support of the professional sectors, there is a serious prospect of the long road to the licensing of investigation businesses <sup>4</sup> finally reaching a practical conclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.theABI.org.uk](http://www.theABI.org.uk) The ABI is a not-for-profit members' professional body for investigation in the private sector where accountability is at the forefront of its very existence. Contact [secretariat@theABI.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@theABI.org.uk) 020 8191 7500.

<sup>2</sup> The Level 3 Award in professional investigation was written as the basic competence criteria should licensing for individuals be implemented. It remains currently the only recognised sector specific qualification. The ABI adopted the qualification as the entry level for Full membership.

<sup>3</sup> ABI's exerted campaign on data protection compliance creates opportunities for the ambitious visionaries among its membership.

<sup>4</sup> It was the concept of business licensing that led to the British Standards Institution compiling the BS102000/2013 (Code of Practice for the Provision of Investigative Services) and its revision in 2018, which the ABI encourages its members to achieve.