

Characteristics of a Professional Investigator	
Professional Investigator	Others
Summary	
<p>An ethical Investigator or investigation business is readily identifiable by their determination to do his/her/their best for and to protect the reputation and best interests of their client, with a desire to achieve satisfactory conclusions and with a continuous focus on self improvement and mindful of changes in Legislation, concerned not to cause inadvertent harm to a client or the public in general. They will ALWAYS put the interest of the client before their own.</p> <p>This is easily identified, either by a few simple questions or by getting a feel for the Investigation business from their website.</p> <p>A professional investigator, before taking on an assignment would establish the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The objective. 2. How the product of the investigation will be used. 3. Whether the objective can be lawfully achieved or attempted. 4. The credibility of the client. 	<p>With probably little investigative or analytical skill or experience acting in judicial process but with a focus on improved personal income and a failing to understand or comply that "two wrongs don't make a right".</p> <p>In the extreme the information thieves who have adopted the title Private Investigator in order to mask their true activities and provide themselves with a veneer of respectability.</p> <p>These information thieves, who have degraded the title of "Private Investigator" are simply electronic burglars, employed by certain sectors, more infamously the media as exposed in the Leveson Inquiry.</p> <p>They deal in information as opposed to evidence.</p>
Characteristics	
Gathering of evidence to place in a legal context. To assist in proceedings or some kind of legal process.	Gathering confidential information as opposed to evidence.
Sources - Public domain, witness accounts, personal observations, consented subscription databases. Formal requests from Data Controllers (Sec 35/29 DPA)	Protected confidential databases – medical records, bank accounts, government databases etc.
Be accountable by membership of a reputable professional body such as the	May not seek to belong to any recognised professional body or seek to

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www.theABI.org.uk

ABI in order that complaints can be made, fairly investigated and sanctions imposed if appropriate.	join those with weak membership entry criteria.
Work to a Code of Conduct & Ethical Standards.	
Have policies of professional indemnity insurance and public liability insurance.	
Be registered with the ICO and provide a checkable registration number.	
Have professional qualifications or checkable experience.	
Refuse no matter what is offered, to break the law.	Unlikely to turn down any request for an investigation, so long as the client has made an advance payment.
Will not give unrealistic expectations or "guarantee" a positive result.	Likely to be vague & "mysterious" about how they obtain information/results.
Provide a detailed and clear written report.	
Not just provide a mobile number as a means of contact – The client must be able to track down the Investigator in case of complaint or dispute.	
Promptly respond to communications received from the client and keep the client regularly updated.	
Not advertise services that could tarnish the reputation of a client (the use of tracking devices).	
Not advertise services, the product of which could not be used in a court of law.	
Be willing to pixelate the faces of children captured in lawfully conducted surveillance footage at no extra cost.	
Be unwilling to commit trespass in the furtherance of a surveillance operation.	
Refuse to sanction any tactic, which could later be deemed Agent Provocateur.	
Always strive to be cost-effective.	
Be willing to work to fixed fees and/or to provide a documented estimate of cost & to report back for authority before incurring more expense.	
If staff employed, provide evidence of training.	
Provide checkable references/testimonials so that a client	

can be satisfied that they have the experience/are competent to handle the type of enquiry they are being offered.	
Have accreditations such as ISO:9001 (Quality Management) & ISO:27001 (Information Security).	Will not present themselves for such scrutiny.
In the coming years: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Be licensed➤ Have a business licence➤ Obtain certification in BS:102000.	