



IKD Member Profile & Report 2016

Member organisation	Association of British Investigators
IKD membership Since	1969
Company Status	Limited by guarantee Professional body for all professional investigators whether private or public sector
ABI Membership	500 +
Categories	Full (including Fast Track) Associate (public sector) Provisional (for up to 2 years) Life Member Honorary Retired Overseas Affiliate Corporate Consociate
Patron	Colin Dexter OBE
Registered office	295-297 Church Street, Blackpool, FY1 3PJ
Email	info@theABI.org.uk
URL	www.theABI.org.uk
Logo	



President	Paul Champion President@theABI.org.uk
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Chairman of the Board

Tony Imossi

Chairman@theABI.org.uk

General Secretary

Eric Shelmerdine

IKD Delegate

Tony Imossi

Description

The Association of British Investigators is the longest established organisation representing professional Investigators in the UK with its foundations laid way back in 1913. With the absence of any statutory control of the investigation industry in the UK, The Association recognised the need for self-regulation many years ago and set very high standards to meet the criteria for membership opting for quality rather than quantity. Members are admitted only after stringent vetting. Members must conduct their business in a professional manner, with Professional Indemnity Insurance and by complying with a strict code of ethics with disciplinary procedures in place to monitor any transgressors. Members are also required to provide a clear Criminal Convictions Certificate no older than 3 years. A Governing Council normally consisting of up to 10 members including the President, who also acts as Chairman, oversees the administration of The Association, which is conducted day to day by the single full-time employee, the General Secretary. The Governing Council officers are democratically elected by the membership each year at an annual conference. The Association is endorsed by The Law Society, see <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/membership-extra/business-services/abi/> The Association is also the only sector accredited association with The Law Society of Scotland and the government body, The Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency giving members exclusive access to the vehicle keepers' database electronically in certain circumstances. Private Investigations are included in the process of regulation under the Private Security Act 2001 but yet to be implemented.

Code of Ethics

Yes and available on www.theABI.org.uk

Directory of Members

A directory of members is available on the web site by location and member.

Newsletter

The Association produces a weekly email newsletter. It also publishes a booklet to help people considering becoming a Private Investigator and 2 manuals, The Best Practice Guide, and Process Servers' Guide.

Membership selection process

- a. Credit reference search must be clear of County Court Judgments and Bankruptcy
- b. 2 professional written references
- c. Interview by membership panel to check character and competence



- d. Publication of applicant among membership with opportunity for objections from within the membership
- e. Check Data Protection Notification
- f. Check Consumer Credit Licence, if applicable
- h. Professional Indemnity Insurance at a minimum level, currently £250,000
- i. Criminal Convictions Certificate conforming with The Association's Policy
- j. Identity verification
- k. Photographic identity card supplied
- l. Address verification
- m. Full membership requires the Level 3 Qualification in Investigations
[Fast Track route available to existing investigators with a proven track and competency record, which exempts interview and examination. The application must be sponsored by 2 Full Members].

Disqualification

Yes

Disciplinary procedures

Yes

Data Protection Act 1998

Notification No. Z5636882

