

Industry Security Notice

Number 2011/06

Subject: Advice on providing National Security Vetting (NSV) details to Non-Governmental Organisations.

Introduction

1. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is aware that some organisations actively solicit registration from individuals who hold a current National Security Vetting (NSV) clearance. Those in possession of such a clearance should consider whether the disclosure of this fact is appropriate.

Issue

2. Disclosure of NSV clearance details as with any other personal information is always a matter of risk management and individual choice. This advice is issued to assist NSV cleared individuals to decide whether it is an acceptable risk to provide details of their NSV alongside other personal information to organisations where it is unclear that this information will be held securely and where the ultimate destination of the information is not readily apparent.

Action by Industry

3. The information in this Industry Security Notice should be disseminated as widely as possible within companies to ensure staff are aware of the issues associated with the disclosure of their NSV status.

Background

4. There are a growing number of organisations, primarily, although not exclusively internet based who actively encourage individuals who are in possession of a current NSV clearance to submit details of their clearance along with other personal information.

5. Many of these organisations actively trawl on-line social/professional networking sites looking specifically for fora or groups where individuals declare their security clearance and then follow up with either 'cold' calling or e-mails.

6. It is entirely understandable that individuals may wish to further their career prospects by either engaging with on-line groups catering to their profession or providing their details to organisations that purport to offer greater access to companies and Government

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organisations that have a requirement for NSV cleared staff. It should however be noted that that these entities are unlikely to be acting on behalf of a Government organisation/agency directly, as current instructions prohibit specifying that work/job applicants should already be in possession of an NSV clearance.

7. Individuals who 'openly' advertise their status also provide valuable information to hostile intelligence services which may enable them to potentially build up a picture of current projects by identifying those in certain fields. The identification of individuals involved in certain areas of research may also be of interest to some single issue pressure groups and could lead to active targeting of the individual and/or their families.

8. Individuals who provide their personal and NSV details to organisations may not have fully assessed the risk to the security of that information, its ultimate destination or to themselves.

Conclusion

9. Whilst the MOD have no wish to limit an individual's opportunities to further their career, those in possession of an NSV clearance should be aware that with it comes certain responsibilities towards the information to which they have access, their colleagues and themselves. The voluntary disclosure of clearance information to those who do not have a 'need to know' may in certain circumstances increase the risk to an individual and the work in which they are engaged.

Validity / Expiry Date: Until further notice.

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