



Definition of private security services (private security services family tree)

Private security services, public order services and private military services

The focus in this table is on ‘manned’ services and other ‘bricks’ of integrated security solutions. Correctional services, fire and ambulance services and production (industry) of security equipment are excluded. Fire protection and ambulance services are, however, often provided to clients within the scope of guarding (fire patrol, checks and first response), electronic security (installation of fire alarm equipment) and monitoring and alarm receiving (fire alarms). The activities/products mentioned under the different headings are not exhaustive, but give examples of interlinked activities/products.

Private security services								Public order services ¹	Private military services ²
Security consultancy	Private investigation³	Crowd management⁴	Guarding	Electronic security⁵	Physical/ mechanical security⁶	Cash handling services⁷	Information security⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public order tasks Private crime investigation Parking control Traffic control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed protection Military services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk management Business intelligence Security planning Implementation 	Different to (private) crime investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event security Door supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static Mobile Security checks Close protection Alarm response Reception (Key holding) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms Access control Access media CCTV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locks Barriers⁹ Seals Lighting Safes Strongrooms/ vaults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIT Cash processing ATM maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT security Document security ID security 		
Security training and exercise¹⁰									
Protection of NCI¹¹			Monitoring and alarm receiving¹²						
			Alarm receiving (and dispatching) Electronic surveillance and positioning Operational remote control Guard safety control CIT remote control						

¹ Include activities often referred to as ‘private policing’, such as traditional or new public law enforcement services that are outsourced to or (for other reasons) taken over by private security providers. Tasks carried out in semi-public environments (shopping centres, sports events, outdoor concerts etc.) are considered guarding or event security in this context.

² These are in the first place auxiliary services, provided by personnel with combat skills, for state bodies, NGOs and private businesses in conflict and crisis areas, and in failing societies. The providers of these services are generally referred to as ‘private military companies’. Mercenary activities are excluded.

³ The term ‘private investigation’ is in some contexts replaced by ‘private intelligence services’ as the area of operation and the issues dealt with have been expanded.

⁴ Also referred to as ‘crowd control’.

⁵ Planning, installation and maintenance of Business-to-Business (B2B), Business-to-Consumer (B2C) and integrated systems.

⁶ Physical and mechanical security are only considered part of private security services if provided in connection with other services.

⁷ Could also be referred to as ‘transport of valuables’ covering the transport of blood for hospitals, art, valuables, documents etc. Cash is by far the main item transported and handled, which is why the entire security transport activity is called ‘cash handling services’ in this context.

⁸ Includes information and communication technology security (ICT), document security (writing, handling, transport and storage), and identification (ID) security services such as the provision of IDs and ID protection.

⁹ E.g. installation of security fences, gates, doors, windows, blockers etc.

¹⁰ Security training is an auxiliary, often licensed, service, primarily aimed at fulfilling the (legal) requirements imposed on operational security personnel. Training is carried out by private security companies, government representatives (e.g. police) or independent training providers (institutions).

¹¹ The protection of National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) is a new, important and growing specific (integrated/converged) security service, also including the terrorist aspect (CBRNE). It has not been categorised in this context and should probably be an additional column next to ‘private military services’.

¹² Monitoring is today positioned in a grey area between guarding and electronic security.