

# Women in Security

An industry for everyone - a career of choice, regardless of gender



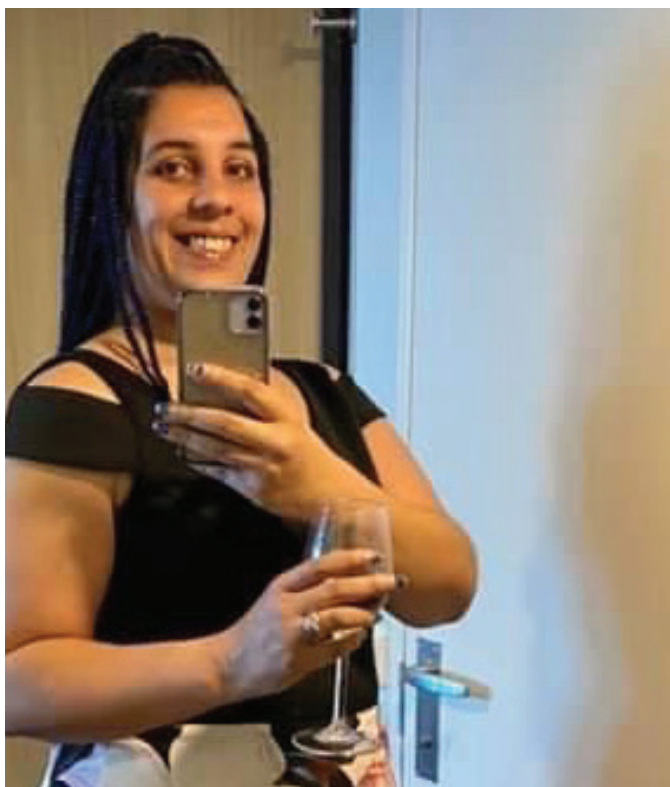
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Ten years ago, the percentage of women in the security industry was virtually non-existent but the opportunity to flex working with other demands, has meant women have become more prevalent and very welcome in the industry. As the industry sees year on year growth, so women are becoming an essential part of the service delivery. Women have actively positioned themselves with this growth in mind and they can be seen working in our retail and government sectors and more and more in the private security industry.

In the below article we acknowledge the contribution of Women in Security, and the value they provide to the industry. Our women have important roles in the security sector across OCS, both on the frontline and in our management structure. We celebrate women who bring so much more to their security roles, their dedication to keeping the public safe and we applaud their accomplishments.

This paper will detail an array of our key professionals who are at the forefront of the security sector and are leading the way for the industry. These women have positively influenced and made an impact on their peers, their departments, and the public.

## Gemma Myring - Security Officer



Just because the security industry is predominantly male, do not let it deter you from doing the job. Women are just as good as men doing security. I have noticed that in certain situations a woman is needed to calm a situation down. Do not forget, you're great at your job, and your gender should not define you.

Gemma joined OCS in 2018 as an event steward in Birmingham. Whilst conducting her stewarding role, she witnessed how enjoyable and unique the security sector was. Gemma decided to complete her SIA course in May 2018. Since then, she has conducted many security roles to date. Including Team Leader, Behaviour Detection Officer and also worked in the Response Team across the entertainment and events sector, and healthcare division.



**In 2020, Gemma went on to win the prestigious Women in Security – Frontline award.**

“During Covid-19, I was placed to work at a Women’s Hospital in Birmingham as security presence and Covid-19 screener. One day, a man came in shouting that his baby had died. He was clearly distressed. I took him to one side and asked where his wife was. I took him to the delivery suite and calmly spoke to him to calm him down. I told him his wife needed him to be strong and calm to which he hugged me and followed his wife into the room. I went back to post to carry on with my job. Later, I was called again to the delivery suite. I spoke to the gentleman and told him that he needed to stay calm and be strong for his wife because if he carried on the way he was going, I would be asking him to leave the hospital, which I didn’t want to do. He calmed down and went into the theatre with his wife.

An hour later I was called back to the delivery suite where I was met by the matron who told me the sad news that the baby was still born, and the dad was walking around with the baby and wanted to take the baby back to the ward. I asked the matron for PPE, an apron and gloves and I walked towards the gentleman and asked if I could hold his baby. I treated this baby as if it was alive and rocked and held its hand. I spoke to the gentleman and said let’s take the baby back to mom as it needs to go in the cot. The gentleman calmed right down and followed me to the room.

This brought back some memories as I lost a child to cot death at 4 months old. The midwives at the hospital were amazing support for me through it all. A few weeks later, the couple came back to speak to the bereavement midwives and brought me some flowers, as a thank you for what I had done.”

The BSIA is an active supporter of women in security and is playing a major role in ensuring that we continue to encourage more talented females into the industry. The Women in Security Awards are a great showcase for our members’ employees, who regularly make significant contributions in keeping people, property and places professionally protected as well as highlighting that this is **an industry for everyone - a career of choice, regardless of your gender.**

We will continue to focus on attracting people from a wide range of backgrounds to these roles so that the security officer services sector is more representative of the society it protects, and that we create a sector with an equal gender balance.



**Mike Reddington**  
Chief Executive, BSIA



## Temi – Court Supervisor



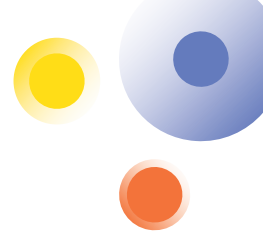
Temi was looking for an exciting opportunity, something different to what she had done previously, and the security sector felt like the perfect fit. Temi secured her SIA license and had worked in retail security, response, and supervisor roles at major events. In January 2020, she started working in the government sector at Ealing Magistrates Court as Court Security Officer. Due to her excellent approach, she has been promoted to Court Supervisor.

We asked Temi what she enjoys about working in the security sector:

“The security sector provides a great deal of opportunities, with the option to work in different industries as well as the chance to climb the career ladder. No two days are the same working in the security sector. I enjoy coming to work, I like the challenge of thinking on my feet, and it showcases my decision making and organisational skills. Plus, I’m very much a people person, so the role really suits my personality. There are some day-to-day challenges of course, which comes with the nature of the job, but that’s where my expertise come into play, and I work closely with my great team to rectify any issues. The working hours also work really well for me, as they enable me to have a good work/life balance.”

A typical working day for Temi:

“I conduct a morning briefing with my colleagues, and ensure the doors open at 9am for members of the court and the public. My team and I meet and greet all attendees, it’s important for everyone to start the day off on a positive note! As well as make sure all equipment is working properly, and that searches are executed thoroughly. Ultimately, I need to make sure each day runs smoothly, and I work with my team to eliminate any issues calmly and efficiently.”



Temi says:

“Women are really good at security! We’re naturally great at calming situations down, and I’ve been called to the frontline on numerous occasions to deescalate situations. Attitudes are changing and we need more women in security, we really do bring a unique dimension to security roles and by approaching people in the right way, leads to a positive reaction. The more women that undertake security roles, will inspire more women to do the same. Women in security is the way forward, we’ve got this!”

“Temi won the OCS Security Hero award in 2022 for turning the court contract around. I would like to offer my special thanks and I’m so proud of what Temi has achieved to date. The endless positivity that Temi shares has transferred to the rest of her team, and her contribution to Ealing Magistrates Court has been recognised by OCS.”

**Steven Gardner**

Head of Global Security, OCS Group UK

## Ellie Reeves – Arena Security Officer



Ellie started in the security industry just after her 18th birthday. Her mother had already been working within the OCS Arena Security Team in Birmingham for many years. Ellie had always thought how interesting and enjoyable her role was. Ellie was compelled to be part of an active, ever changing dynamic environment, so it felt like a natural step for her to join the Arena Security team too.

Ellie tells us what she enjoys about working in security, and the roles she has conducted so far:

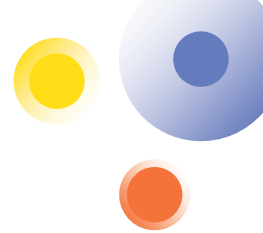
“There’s a lot I enjoy about the job, it definitely keeps me on my toes! As a team, we are faced with a myriad of situations to tackle, and you never fall into a monotonous cycle that you may find in other jobs. I’ve worked at some sensational shows with some fabulous people, and I can honestly say it has set foundations of how I view the world and tackle problems as a young adult especially. I’ve gathered a whole host of weird and wonderful stories from working in Arena Security, and have met some of my dearest, lifelong friends in the industry, which I am forever grateful for.”

“I’ve conducted various roles within security, specifically the Arena Team. I started as a steward scanning tickets on the doors, then became a Door Supervisor. During this time, I was coached by more senior and experienced members of security who gave me valuable insight into how the industry worked. Over the next few years, I grew in both confidence and knowledge and gradually became a Team Leader/ Assistant on the doors and also worked VIP events at shows, as well as joining the Response Team.

## Congratulations to **Aine Mulcahy**



We would like to congratulate Aine Mulcahy, Managing Director of OCS Group Ireland on winning the **Women in Security Award** at the recent **ISIA Awards 2022**. It’s a fantastic achievement and we want to thank her for her outstanding contribution and championing women in the facilities management and security industry. We’re very proud of you Aine!



I am proud to say that I drew on much of the knowledge from those that guided me while joining the Response Team as we tackled a multitude of scenarios. Within recent months/years, after the guidance and support from management and other colleagues, I have assisted in running the Ground floor. Most recently, though, I was tasked with being the PCS Supervisor for the Commonwealth Games at UAB where I worked closely with two of my arena managers... it was definitely an experience!"

Ellie says:

"My advice to all women officers from all walks of life unsure about starting is, what's stopping you? Femininity can encompass so much, and every one of us has it in us to be both benevolent and strong at the same time. If I've learnt anything over my 25 years of living, it's this - women are powerful!"

### Allison Diamond – Area Director

Allison has been with OCS for 29 years and has worked in the security industry for over 35 years. She has held various security roles within that time. Including Security Officer, Security Receptionist, Administrator, Scheduler, Operations Manager and Regional Manager. Allison's current role covers a wide range of services, as well as security - and she looks after an array of customers.

We asked Allison, how supportive are OCS of women in security?

"Incredibly supportive! I joined OCS when the company I worked for was sold. During the TUPE process, even though I was doing a dual Scheduling and Admin role, and was moving more into operations, the previous company immediately started talking to me about moving into HR. Although there is absolutely nothing wrong with HR, my heart lay with Operations, and I felt that at that time, 29 years ago, they were trying to keep me in an office role because I was a woman. However, when I applied to OCS, and they had no hesitation in giving me the opportunity to prove myself as a young woman in security operations. OCS have never made me feel that being a woman is any different to being a man, despite the fact that when I joined, I didn't meet many other female security managers in the industry."

Allison says:

"If you're a woman and thinking of working in the security sector, I say go for it! Nowadays, I really don't think women are viewed any differently on any of our sites, or by any of our people. I really do think if you do the job just as well as the next person, then you are treated the same."

### Stephanie England – Security Officer & Switchboard Operator



We asked Stephanie what she likes about her role at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

"The reception and switchboard operators are the fulcrum of communication in the hospital, meeting people, booking taxis, directing them, ensuring they are treated with dignity and helping in any way we can in a very caring environment. I love meeting people and helping so I think this job really appealed because of it."

Stephanie tells us about the multiple awards the security team at Liverpool Women's Hospital have won.

"Our team have won many awards due to their diligence and caring nature. We recently won the **Frederick Goodliffe Award** for the 2021 outstanding contribution within OCS. We were also awarded the **Best Team award at the British Security Awards** and were thrilled to win as the award was given for our collective response to an incident which happened at the hospital, where a terrorist blew up a taxi which pulled up in front of the hospital. The actions of Richie, Will and me ensured that everyone was safe and were moved away from the incident and escalated the situation within seconds of the explosion."

Stephanie says,

"If you're a woman interested in a career in security, I would advise her to be herself, remember the men will rely on you as much as they do on the others. Make sure you feel part of the team. I am lucky in Liverpool Women's that the team is very close and trust each other implicitly. We do smile a lot but are also very empathetic with people arriving at the hospital, whatever the situation."