

Archie Philipps – Statement of Intent for the Association of Security Consultants Board of Directors
Election 2026

I am applying to be a Director of the Association of Security Consultants to further build upon my existing service to the ASC and to you, its members, in a wider and more impactful way.

My demonstrable commitment and progressively greater responsibilities within the ASC as an award Judge and panel Chair, and my atypical background would all add value and diversity to the Board as it drives the ASC's development as a leading authority in security consultancy.

I am a testament to what the ASC can do for its members and their careers. I am applying to serve as a Director as I want to give back to the ASC by helping to shape and develop its future as relevant, influential, and responsive to the needs of its membership and the wider industry.

My engagement with the ASC began as winner of the ASC's 2021 Imbert Award for the best Master's dissertation on a security and risk-related subject. I was struck by the ASC's practical and forward-looking approach, how it builds a community to provide best-in-class professional development opportunities. Seeking to reap these benefits for myself and others, I quickly became involved, frequently attending seminars and CONSEC, and writing for *The Sentinel*. My commitment to the ASC, particularly as a younger member, led to my appointment by Directors as a Judge for the 2025 Imbert Award. I played a significant part in developing a standardised assessment system and coordinating and building consensus with my fellow Judges. As a result, I was selected as Lead Judge for the upcoming 2026 Award. The Award encapsulates much of the ASC's mission and my priorities if elected: professional development of current and next generations of security professionals, peer-learning and engagement with critical security questions, developing real-world practical solutions, and rewarding achievement.

In recognition of my continuing work to deliver this mission, I was recently selected as Chair of the ASC's new Academic Advisory and Engagement Committee. Serving as Director alongside chairing and building out the Committee would allow me to deliver in a more direct, wider, and deeper way, by engaging with and between the Board, advisory panels, the ASC membership and organisation, and strengthening internal and external stakeholder partnerships.

Professionally, I am a security and intelligence analyst at Securitas, with previous experience at Control Risks. I am responsible for security analysis and advice for some of the largest and most pioneering S&P 500, Fortune 500, and FTSE 100 multinationals, predominantly in high-risk sectors such as defence, AI and technology, energy, and critical infrastructure. Every day, I deliver briefs to C-Suite and engage with all levels of security leadership, including physical and site security, executive protection, and travel security, many of whom are former law enforcement or military. As a Director, I would deploy my skills working with all levels of internal and external security stakeholders, and my expertise in the security of industries relevant to ASC members and the wider security sector.

The ASC's purpose is to promote the benefits of independent security consultancy, develop and update consultants' competence and knowledge, and expand the ASC's influence as the leading professional network of security practitioners. Accordingly, I would operationalise delivering on this purpose with three immediate priorities. Firstly, to grow awareness of, and partnerships with, the ASC. The recent strengthening of ties with the BSIA and CSyP indicate how the ASC, as one of only two security associations recognised by HMRC and the Government, continues to increase its profile and thereby the professional benefits for members. My career focuses on security for AI and defence firms, so I understand the necessity for similar, further consolidations to keep abreast of challenges and opportunities in these crucial areas, such as by increasing collaboration with pioneering defence and technology firms, MoD initiatives, and research clusters. Secondly, developing and updating competence and knowledge. Building on existing excellent quarterly seminars and CONSEC, I would advocate for further CPD learning and training

opportunities on critical industry issues such as Martyn's Law, including through webinars for non-London-based members and creating topic-specific working groups. Thirdly, to strengthen professional ties through increased formal and informal networking opportunities.

Building on these immediate priorities, my longer-term vision would focus on ensuring the ASC's longevity and enduring influence by leading the development of the next generation of security consultants. As Chair of the Academic Advisory and Engagement Committee, an Imbert Award Judge, and a member of the younger generation who joined the ASC through an educational route and continues to mentor multiple new security professionals, I am particularly well-placed to develop this vital strategic goal. My strategy has two mutually beneficial prongs. Firstly, building relationships between the ASC and educational institutions via mentoring programmes, career skills workshops, and presence at university fairs. Secondly, providing opportunities for students and recent graduates to nurture their interests in security, build a professional profile, and develop crucial corporate communication skills through the ASC by delivering seminar presentations or articles in *The Sentinel*. Individual members would earn CPD through mentoring opportunities, and the ASC would broaden its knowledge base of the latest research from the country's brightest minds. My strategy would foster young professionals' long-term commitment to the ASC – as seen in my own case – and thereby preserve and expand the ASC's membership and influence as a key player in the security industry's future.

My roles as an ASC panel chair and ASC Judge, my professional career, my active participation in The Security Institute and several security think tanks, years of mentoring the next generation of security professionals, and longtime engagement in intra- and inter-sectoral and community initiatives have all honed my abilities to engage constructively with differing information and viewpoints, balance priorities, build relationships with stakeholders, and communicate to internal and external audiences. I am an attentive, diligent, collegiate yet proactive leader, invaluable qualities for an ASC Director and Board member.

If elected, I would use this privilege to listen, learn, collaborate, and act.

I invite you all to reach out to me to begin working together.