

# Christopher Hunter-Bennett

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Information Security leader with extensive experience delivering independent, risk-based assurance across complex government and enterprise environments. Proven track record advising senior leaders on cyber risk, control effectiveness, and proportionate security outcomes. Combines deep technical understanding with strong governance, policy, and stakeholder engagement skills to drive secure-by-design decision-making at organisational scale.

## Skills

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### Strategic Cyber Security & Assurance

- Cyber security governance, assurance, and audit (ISO 27001, NIST CSF, HMG SPF)
- Risk assessment, RMADS, BIA, and proportionate risk treatment
- Senior stakeholder engagement and executive advisory
- Independent assurance of architecture, cloud services, and delivery programmes
- Policy development, standards, and control frameworks
- Secure-by-design and proportionate risk-based decision-making

### Technical & Professional Depth

- Cloud security architecture (AWS, Azure)
- Vulnerability management and technical assurance
- DevSecOps and secure CI/CD pipelines
- Scripting and automation (PowerShell, Python, Bash)
- Incident response and investigative analysis

## Experience

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06/2015 – 06/2018, AND 01.2019 – PRESENT

### Senior Information Security Officer | Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office

- Act as senior cyber security authority, delivering independent, risk-based assurance across complex government programmes, live services, and architectural change
- Provide security assurance of technical and procedural controls across on-premise, cloud, and hybrid environments
- Lead ISMS compliance and assurance activity, assessing alignment with ISO 27001, NIST CSF, CIS benchmarks, and HMG policy, and advising senior risk owners on control effectiveness and residual risk
- Conduct and assure formal risk assessments, RMADS, and system certifications, ensuring risks are clearly articulated and treated through design and delivery
- Advise senior stakeholders and governance forums on security architecture, risk trade-offs, and secure-by-design decisions
- Independently assess the security posture of complex environments (Windows, Linux, networking, cloud services, DevSecOps pipelines) to inform assurance judgements
- Approve and challenge system designs and architectural changes, ensuring proportionate controls and appropriate compensating measures
- Author and maintain enterprise security policies, standards, and implementation guidance, translating technical risk into actionable governance
- Act as liaison to Other Government Departments (Cabinet Office, HMRC, MoD), providing cross-government security assurance and technical authority
- Direct penetration testing, vulnerability management, and technical assessments to support evidence-based assurance and executive decision-making

- Deployed overseas as a Diplomatic Officer to the British High Commission in Nicosia, delivering regional cyber and information security assurance across HMG estates in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and leading strategic engagement with international partners

06/2018 – 01/2019

**Technical Security Researcher | SANS Institute**

- Conducted advanced security research into hardware, software, and human factors, translating findings into practical risk and assurance insights
- Published and presented research internationally, influencing government and industry understanding of emerging cyber threats
- Designed and delivered advanced cyber ranges and Capture the Flag challenges to support practitioner development and executive awareness

10/2013 – 06/2015

**Information Security Specialist, Joint Force Intelligence Group (JFIG), PATHFINDER | Royal Air Force**

- Provided expert cyber and information security advice to defence and intelligence programmes, supporting the secure introduction of new technologies
- Led technical security audits, risk assessments, and control effectiveness reviews against legal, regulatory, and policy requirements
- Assessed and improved security controls across networks, endpoints, and operational systems
- Managed investigations into technical security incidents, driving remediation and resilience improvements

07/2011 – 10/2013

**Information Security Specialist, British Forces Cyprus, RAF Akrotiri | Royal Air Force**

- Delivered information and protective security assurance across UK and overseas military installations
- Led ISO 27001-aligned security implementations, including formal risk assessments and RMADS
- Conducted proactive security reviews across physical, personnel, and information domains
- Advised senior commanders and governance panels on operational risk, resilience, and continuity, including during Operation ELLAMY
- Worked with military police, intelligence, customs, and host-nation authorities to investigate security breaches and criminal activity
- Delivered threat intelligence briefings to senior leadership to support strategic decision-making

05/2010 – 07/2011

**Protective Security Officer, Air Command, RAF High Wycombe | Royal Air Force**

- Supported counterintelligence operations, working closely with local law enforcement to proactively identify and mitigate security threats
- Investigated a wide range of security incidents, implementing corrective actions and refining policies to prevent recurrence
- Delivered tailored threat intelligence briefings to senior leadership, supporting strategic risk management and decision-making
- Maintained the station's security risk log, enabling ongoing monitoring and prioritisation of risk remediation activities

04/2007 – 05/2010

**Operational Military Police Officer, Tactical Police Squadron, RAF Henlow | Royal Air Force**

- Conducted policing and force protection operations in high-threat and deployed environments
- Managed incidents and investigations, maintaining forensic integrity and evidential standards
- Worked alongside NATO and coalition partners on international operations
- Delivered training and mentorship to partner forces and local law enforcement personnel
- Deployed on operations to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of multinational force protection teams

# Education

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## Academic & Executive

- Executive Education in Artificial Intelligence, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford
- MSc Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, University of Liverpool (*ongoing*)
- BSc Information Technology and Communications, Staffordshire University
- A Levels: 4 Subjects at A – C, Including IT, Computer Science and Geography
- GCSE's: 10 Subjects grade A - C, including English, Math's, Science, and Information Technology

## Management & Leadership

- Chartered Management Institute – Certificate in First Line Management
- Chartered Management Institute – Diploma in Team Leading

## Core Professional Certifications

- CISSP – Certified Information Systems Security Professional (ISC<sup>2</sup>)
- ISO 27001 Lead Implementer (CIS LI)
- ISO 27001 Lead Auditor (CIS LA)

## Advanced Cyber Security Certifications

- GIAC: GSEC, GCED, GCIA, GCIH, GNSA, GDSA, GWAPT, GCDA, GPEN, GRTP, GCPN, GAWN, GXPN
- AWS: Certified Cloud Practitioner, Certified Solutions Architect
- CompTIA: Network+, Security+
- eLearnSecurity: Junior Penetration Tester, Professional Penetration Tester

## Professional Memberships

- BCS – Professional Member 990601364
- ISC<sup>2</sup> – Member 488274
- GIAC Advisory Board Member

## Selected Achievements

- SANS NetWars Champion – Core and DFIR
- SANS Course CTF Winner – SEC503, SEC504, SEC530, SEC542, SEC560, SEC660