

ROWENA FELL

MERCK SHARP AND DOHNE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR SECURITY



Rowena Fell, Associate Director of Security at Merck Sharp & Dohne has used her training and qualifications to advise and work with many different businesses and individuals.

Career

I began my career with the British Army. I chose the area that was most interesting, with the best promotion prospects and the opportunity to travel: the Intelligence Corps.

After serving 12 years I successfully transitioned to a senior position in the private sector. Initially with Bank of America followed by the Senior Manager appointment with ISARR, a technology provider of an online security risk product.

Throughout my 7 year career in the private sector I have held a variety of positions which have included a law enforcement agency, a security consultancy, as well as an investment bank. I also worked with pharmaceutical organisations, leading broadcast and media organisations, information technology companies, Tier One consultancies and defence contractors.

“Regardless of sector I’ve been able to provide guidance to many different businesses”

Regardless of sector I have been able to provide guidance to businesses and individuals from a security intelligence perspective. I am also now the Security Intelligence champion for the Women’s Security Society and I hold a full membership of the Security Institute and the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals.

“I have worked with pharmaceuticals, banks, the media, IT and defence companies.”

Training and Qualifications

I recently completed a Masters degree in Security & Intelligence Studies and the ASIS Certified Protection Professional course; promoting the need to complement academic learning with vocational understanding.

“Understand the qualifications that are available.”

As a female in the industry there has been bias but that has been easily overcome. The main thing is for employers as well as individuals entering the security industry to understand the qualifications that are available.

“The Security Industry offers rewarding careers.”

The Security industry is certainly a profession which offers rewarding careers and those looking at their career options should research the security industry and the different areas there are and to identify which is best suited to them. It’s also important to find the relevant support networks to assist you.

As a member of the Women’s Security Society our aim is to promote and support women working in the security industry across all disciplines and provide a network forum.

Organisations are searching for females to complement their teams because we have the skills to prevent conflict and a different way of tackling problems.

I would also advise employers to look closer at the competencies of new candidates and to diversify their team.