

Monthly Membership Update

April 2026



Welcome to the latest edition of the HERSA monthly newsletter, bringing you key updates and insights to keep you abreast of national and international developments in research and economic security.

This Month's Highlights

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New Vacancies

HERSA 2026 Annual Conference 3rd & 4th June: Register Your Place!

Registration is open for our **HERSA Annual Conference 2026!** As ever, the event remains a free-to-attend, two day event bringing together the research security community from across the UK and beyond.

While the full agenda will be published in the coming weeks, sessions are expected to include:

- A **live Q&A panel** with UK Government partners, including the **National Protective Security Authority (NPSA)**, **Department for Education, Home Office**, and the **Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)**
- Academia-industry collaboration insights, delivered with **EGADD** and **ADS Group Ltd**
- A **foreign interference** workshop
- An **AUKUS developments** workshop, delivered in collaboration with the **UK Ministry of Defence**
- An **international panel**, including an enhanced workshop on **UK-Canada research security collaboration**
- Dedicated opportunities to network with members, partners and collaborators, plus an evening social with drinks and dinner

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Sanctions End-Use Controls: New UK Guidance

The [Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation \(OTSI\)](#), part of the [Department of Business and Trade \(DBT\)](#), has published new guidance to support UK businesses that may be affected by **Sanctions End-Use Controls**. These controls form part of the government's wider approach to tackling the circumvention of trade sanctions.

The guidance explains how Sanctions End-Use Controls operate within sanctions legislation that **includes export prohibitions, with a particular focus on exports to third countries where there is a high risk of diversion to sanctioned destinations or persons.**

It outlines the **key features of the controls, what exporters can expect if they are 'informed'** by the government that their goods or related technology may pose a diversion risk and the **practical steps to take in response.**

The publication also clarifies expectations around compliance, record keeping, and risk awareness.

The full guidance is available on GOV.UK.



Follow us on LinkedIn!

To help grow our page and the wider HERSA network, [follow us](#) and keep up to date with the latest news and events.



Martyn's Law: Statutory Guidance Published

The Home Office has published statutory guidance under the **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, known as 'Martyn's Law'**, to support organisations that are likely to be within scope of the legislation. For universities and other large, publicly accessible premises, the guidance is designed to help duty holders confirm how the Act applies and to understand the obligations that follow.

It explains the Act's core concepts and **sets out proportionate expectations, including requirements around preparedness planning, staff training, evacuation and lockdown procedures and communication arrangements.** The guidance also outlines where enhanced measures may be expected for larger or higher-risk premises such as CCTV, bag search policies, or vehicle checks.

The Act will come into force following an implementation period of at least 24 months from Royal Assent, giving organisations time to prepare. Alongside the main guidance, the **Home Office has published supplementary documents** covering how to assess the reasonable expectation of individuals present at premises and events, illustrative examples of what is in and out of scope, and additional resources and learning materials.

Together, these publications are designed to support effective and consistent implementation of the new requirements. The full suite of guidance is available on the GOV.UK website.



HERSA 2026 Awards: Still Time to Vote!

There is still time to submit nominations for the **inaugural HERSA 2026 Awards**, a new initiative launched this year to celebrate excellence across the HERSA network!

The Awards recognise the achievements, dedication and impact of professionals working in research security across the sector and provide an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the outstanding work taking place across the community.

Award categories are:

- **Rising Star**
- **Team of the Year**
- **Recognition**
- **Outstanding Leader**

Nominations can be made for yourself, a colleague, a team, or another institution and organisations may be nominated across multiple categories.

To make a submission, please complete the [HERSA2026 Awards Nomination Form](#) and return the completed form, along with any supporting evidence, to enquiries@hera.co.uk by 5pm on Wednesday 13th May.

The HERSA2026 Awards Ceremony will be held on the evening of Wednesday 3 June as part of the conference dinner at the HERSA Annual Conference 2026.



Do take the opportunity to have your say and recognise the excellent work happening across the sector!



Defence Universities Alliance (DUA): Applications are Now Open

Applications are now open for higher education institutions to become founding members of the **Defence Universities Alliance (DUA)**. As a founding member, universities will work closely with the Ministry of Defence to help shape and establish the Alliance, ensuring it meets its strategic objectives while delivering tangible benefit for the higher education sector.

Membership will support closer collaboration between academia and defence, aligned with the ambitions set out in the Strategic Defence Review and Defence Industrial Strategy.

The DUA will operate as a strategic, collaborative network of UK universities publicly committed to supporting defence and national security. Working alongside the MOD, the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser for National Security, the UK Armed Forces and the wider defence sector, the Alliance aims to build a long-term ecosystem that strengthens links between defence and academia and supports a 'whole of society' approach to national security.

The deadline for applications is 23:59 on Sunday 17th May 2026. Full details of the application and evaluation process are available in the published guidance and FAQ documents.



ECJU Survey on OGELs: Final Call for Responses

This is the final opportunity to take part in the [Export Control Joint Unit's](#) survey on Open General Export Licences (OGELs), **with responses closing at 23:45 on Wednesday 6 May 2026.**

ECJU is reviewing how OGELs are used and how its licensing services can be improved.

The short survey invites feedback from exporters who have applied for an export licence – whether they regularly use OGELs or not – covering exporter behaviour and experience of using OGELs, reasons for uptake or non-use, and potential service improvements.

The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete and responses are anonymous, with optional contact details for follow-up. [Complete the survey here.](#)



RAND publishes Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Due-Diligence Tool

RAND Europe has published a new **Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Directory**, an open-access tool designed to support research security due diligence and risk assessment.

The directory profiles **50 CAS research units and analyses their potential involvement in Chinese defence capabilities** across six indicators. It is intended to help government, academic, and corporate users better understand the role of CAS within China's wider research and defence ecosystem, supporting informed decisions on collaboration and export compliance.

By providing an evidence-based reference point, **the tool aims to reduce the risk of inadvertent transfer of sensitive technology or know-how.**

The directory is freely available on the RAND website, accompanied by a user guide for the tool.



New Vacancies

No vacancies this month, but check back next time.

Have a vacancy you'd like us to feature? [Get in touch!](#)

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