

Code of Conduct for the BCS Specialist Interest Group for Defence

Purpose and Scope

This Code of Conduct applies to all members of the BCS Specialist Interest Group (SIG) for Defence. It sets out the standards of behaviour expected of members to ensure the Group operates securely, professionally, and in alignment with the values of the British Computer Society (BCS) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

By joining the Group, members agree to always abide by this Code of Conduct, including during events, online discussions, and any other activities associated with the Group.

Professionalism and Integrity

- Members must act with professionalism, integrity, and respect for others in all Group activities.
- Members must not engage in behaviour that could bring the Group, the BCS, or the MOD into disrepute.
- Members must avoid making statements or engaging in activities that could be construed as representing the views of the MOD, the Government, or the BCS without prior authorisation.
- Members must not use the Group as a platform to promote their own commercial interests or to solicit business unless explicitly permitted by the Group's leadership.

Security Awareness

- Members must remain vigilant to potential security threats and take appropriate precautions to safeguard sensitive information.
- Members must not disclose any information about that classified Official during Group activities, whether in person, online, or in written materials.
- Members must adhere to the **"Need-to-Know" principle**, sharing information only with those who have a legitimate need for it.
- Members must not wear military uniform or display Defence credentials at public events unless explicitly authorised.

Media and Public Engagement

- Members must not engage with the media on behalf of the Group, the MOD, or the Government without prior approval from the Directorate of Defence Communications (DDC) or the Group's leadership.
- Members must refer any media enquiries to the Group's designated media contact or the DDC.
- Members must avoid making public statements or social media posts that could compromise security, misrepresent the Group, or undermine public confidence in Defence.

Reporting Concerns

- Members are encouraged to report any concerns about security, inappropriate behaviour, or breaches of this Code of Conduct to the Group's leadership or the appropriate authority.
- Reports will be handled confidentially and in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.
- Members must report any suspicious approaches or contacts to the Group's leadership, the Establishment Security, or the Warning, Action and Reporting Point (WARP) as soon as possible.
- Members must be aware that follow-up contact may occur months later and should remain vigilant.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect

- The Group is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment. Members must treat others with dignity and respect, regardless of their background, role, or affiliation.
- Discrimination, harassment, or any form of inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the Group.