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POLICY NOTE ON PROTECTED TITLES

1. After receiving legal advice, I would like to clarify the legal and policy position of the Institute on the protection of professional titles. Specifically:
 - a. The post-nominal letters “RI” and/or the term “Registered Intelligencer” displayed in association with a legal entity within the context of intelligence.
 - b. The post-nominal letters “SI” and/or the term “Specialist Intelligencer” displayed in association with a legal entity within the context of covert operations.
2. It is the intention of the Institute that these post-nominals and titles should be as widely adopted and recognisable within the industry as academic titles or honours and carry similar legal force under the law. To this end, it is important to first set out the criteria and context for use. Specifically, these post-nominals and titles may only be used if:
 - a. Issued by a regulator or professional body in the field of intelligence and compliant with professional principles of comparable rigour to Benton's principles of professionalisation.¹
 - b. The scope of the awarding regulator or professional body and the standards it enforces for the award include the context pertaining to those professional titles and post-nominals outlined in paragraph 1(a) and 1(b) of this policy note.
3. The current legal standing is that the Institute has the exclusive right to trademark these titles and terms as the original creator. However, registration of these titles and post-nominals is a right the Institute has chosen not to exert out of concern that proprietary restrictions would hinder the adoption of the professional designation by other professional bodies with comparable standards.
4. This does not mean that other legal entities have the right to trademark the Institute's unregistered intellectual property. In fact, officers of the Institute have a positive obligation to challenge any registered trademark of the professional titles with the appropriate authorities as soon as they are made aware of the infringement. The Institute was the first to use the protected titles within the professional context in July 2015 and can produce credible evidence to that fact to ensure the revocation or dismissal of invalid claims.

¹ A copy of these principles are included as an annex to the Institute's governing document and are available upon request. However, this work is widely published and commonly understood by professional bodies.

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5. The Institute also acknowledges that in granting this freedom the title and post-nominals could be maligned, drastically impacting legitimate users. Therefore, until such time as intelligence becomes a fully recognised and protected profession under international law, the Institute will use its rights as the originator and creator to rigorously enforce both the protection of professional titles and the rights of similar professional bodies to adopt them.
6. In the event that titles are misused, enforcement rights include, but are not limited to civil claim or criminal charges for copyright infringement, tortious interference, fraud, competition law, endangerment and even national trademark law protecting unregistered trademarks and permitting legal action throughout the world. As many of these international rights precede the introduction of the European trademark (EUTM), they must be respected by European courts regardless of the EUTM restrictions on proprietary protections.



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