

James Currie-Cathey CISSP, CCSP, UK Gov SC

CISO | Consultant – Cloud Security, Cyber Security, Risk & Governance
Information Security, Cyber Security, Cloud Migration, Remediation & Change Expertise
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Professional Overview

Commercially-astute and confident, with over 25 years' experience of designing and delivering information & cyber security strategies across Not-for-Profit, Media, Advertising, Retail, Insurance and Manufacturing sectors.

CISSP & CCSP-certified, with broad experience of best practice, including ISO 27001 & Cyber Essentials+.

Proactive as a 'trusted partner' to the business, bridging the gap between Cyber Security & business needs, converting strategy into change, boosting performance via IS teams, robust processes and project delivery.

Sees both the 'big picture' & details, encouraging a culture of continuous improvement, understanding the challenge of cloud, data & Cyber Security issues, articulating complex concepts to a non-technical audience.

20+ years of experience in the Information Security sector, specialising in robust security strategies and driving cyber-resilience transformations, both in contract and interim leadership roles, notably as a CISO.

Career Highlights

- **Leadership at Amnesty International:** Turned around an underdeveloped security department into an operational team within a short period, recognised for success in role by the Chief Information Officer.
- **Cloud Security Work at WPP:** Led the security aspects of the transition to cloud platforms, including Azure, GCP, and AWS.
- **GDPR Remediation at John Lewis Partnership:** Managed the assessment and remediation of 150 GDPR-impacted applications.
- **Cyber security Improvement at Co-op Insurance:** Contributed significantly to the Cyber Security Improvement Programme during separation and insourcing from Co-op Bank.
- **Deputy CISO at Link Asset Services:** Maturing the Cyber Security capability, following a £900m divestment to LAS, ensuring smooth transition and realignment under a new parent company.
- **Cloud Security Consultant at Unilever:** Advised on securely transitioning to cloud-based platforms, leveraging Microsoft Azure, AWS, Salesforce, and O365.

Key Skills & Expertise

Leadership & Information Security	Cyber-Resilience Transformation	Senior Stakeholder Engagement
Cloud Security & InfoSec Strategy	Standard Operating Model Design	GDPR Compliance & Remediation
Technology & Business Alignment	Cyber Security & Risk Assessment	IT Security Awareness & Training
Governance, Risks & Compliance	Cyber Security Improvement Plan	Vendor Management & Negotiation
ISO 27001 Audit & Accreditation	Cyber Risk Management Software	Enterprise Systems Deployment

Career Experience

Corporate Travel Management, London

Chief Information Security Officer (Contract)

Oct 2023 to Present

Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Corporate Travel Management. Tasked with the comprehensive oversight of Security Operations, my role encompasses a wide range of responsibilities and services.

Key contributions and successes:

- Maintaining successful ISO 27001 registration through rigorous external supervisory audits, ensuring compliance and best practice standards.
- Leading the rollout of new consolidated global policies, integrating regional standards and processes for enhanced operational consistency.
- Successfully orchestrating the migration of security services, transitioning from outsourced partners and legacy departmental responsibilities to a centralised security function.

- Strategically partnered with an outsourced provider to augment the skills of our in-house team, facilitating the expansion into new areas critical for serving the evolving security needs of the business.

Amnesty International, London
Chief Information Security Officer (Contract)

Mar 2023 to Sep 2023

State-sponsored actors target Amnesty International to disrupt its operations, obtain intelligence, or suppress its activities, whilst simultaneously physical and targeted digital security dangers plague staff & researchers.

Parachuted into role as Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) on a contract basis with limited handover, tasked with rapidly addressing ongoing Cyber Security issues and swiftly assembling a Security Team.

Acted as a 'trusted advisor' on Information Security, engaging with the CIO and CFO, and establishing a Cyber Security Governance Committee.

Formed an Information Security Governance Committee, comprising senior movement leaders with the aim of promoting communication, collaboration, policy debate, and approval across the wider AI movement.

Developed and secured approval for a major 3-year programme to improve Amnesty's information Security maturity, mitigate risks, and achieve Cyber Essentials accreditation.

Key contributions and successes:

- Delivered improved corporate communication, promoting better understanding and teamwork
- Introduced mission-critical security standards across the organisation, improving Cyber Security
- Initiated a large Cyber Security assessment project, adopting a hands-on approach to boost security
- Developed robust vendor controls and safe contract agreements with procurement and legal teams
- Drove Cyber Security maturity workstreams, multitasking and focusing on strategic improvement
- Designed and implemented an ISO 27001-compliant ISMS with policy, standards, and governance

WPP, London
Cloud Security Lead (Contract)

Jun 2022 to Mar 2023

Appointed on contract within WPP, providers of communications, experience, commerce, and technology services spanning 112 countries worldwide. Took the lead in managing the Information Security function.

Tasked with overseeing WPP's cloud security unit, originally focused on Azure and expanding to GCP and AWS, as WPP continues to transition and migrate across to the cloud.

Created and implemented a strategic Cloud Information Security and IT Risk Management Programme.

Developed and implemented a comprehensive cloud security risk management initiative, facilitating the migration of over 8,000 workloads from the incumbent outsource supplier to an in-house cloud environment.

Introduced processes for the seamless integration of an outsourced Security Operations Centre into WPP's cloud migration project to ensure threat mitigation and compliance.

Key contributions and successes:

- Developed and deployed the Standard Operating Model / Standard Operating Process for Security
- Established key operational indicators (KOIs) and a series of strict Information Security criteria
- Successfully delivered an enhanced security management framework and robust processes
- Assisted with company technology planning by providing a future vision of technology and systems

John Lewis Partnership, London
Information Security Advisor (Contract)

Feb 2021 to Jun 2022

Advised JLP, one of the UK's largest retailer partnerships on security problems related to a highly-complex application remediation programme. Engaged collaboratively with senior-level stakeholders and executives.

Additionally took ownership for representing security on JLP's largest-ever customer master data project.

Pivotal role in ensuring the success of the customer master data effort, ensuring all control objectives and targets were met, essential to safeguarding 50m+ customer records and avoiding data / reputational issues.

Key contributions and successes:

- Successfully assessed and remedied the partnership's top-150 GDPR-impacted applications
- Designed & implemented a new assurance framework for the partnership's new policy deployment

**Co-op Insurance, Manchester
Information Security Business Partner (Contract)**

Dec 2019 to Oct 2020

Engaged on a leading UK consumer co-operative's business and system transformation effort, tasked with creating and implementing comprehensive Information Security / Cyber Security initiatives and IT policies.

Balanced information security demands against Cyber Security risks, and advising on appropriate response levels to support a system roll-out to 13 depots, 2,600+ stores, 50,000+ lines, and thousands of suppliers.

Successfully delivered a series of remediation programmes, including retiring services, updating others, revising operational models, identifying hazards, and providing assured stakeholder risk acceptance.

Key contributions and successes:

- Worked collaboratively with internal and external audit and risk assessors to improve security
- Promoted robust governance, and championed process observations from external audits
- Project managed deployment of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for a portfolio of suppliers
- Successfully launched and delivered an innovative new SAP-based security programme

**Co-op Insurance, Manchester
Information Security Consultant / Subject Matter Expert (Contract)**

Jun 2019 to Dec 2019

Advised Co-op Insurance on its Cyber Security Improvement Programme (CSIP) during separation and insourcing of IT from Co-op Bank. Supported strategic goals by boosting confidence in Cyber Security.

Took the lead in implementing and embedding Information Security-compliant programme governance.

Key contributions and successes:

- Supported delivery of an environment remediation plan, bank separation & improved capabilities
- Identified, sourced, and developed programme security artefacts, designs, and core requirements

**Very Group / Shop Direct, Liverpool
Information Security Advisor (Contract)
to Apr 2019**

Jun 2018

Advised on security issues related to a major and complex transformation programme within this £1.96bn t/o multi-brand online retailer and financial services provider, tasked with segregating the credit aspects of Shop Direct business from legacy platform to a new package (Financier), leveraging IBM as a systems integrator.

Overcame and balanced conflicting priorities for infrastructure and web front-end to create and lead a high-impact and positive implementation.

Key contributions and successes:

- End-to-end project lifecycle management and delivery, including planning, scope, risk & issues
- Ensured cutover events succeeded with minimal security risk, meeting FCA and ICO standards

**Link Asset Services, Leeds & London
Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) (Contract)**

Jun 2017 to May 2018

Engaged as Deputy CISO, on a contract basis, with full remit for maturing the Cyber Security capabilities within a leading supplier of infrastructure, services and knowledge services for 'high-net-worth' (HNW) wealth management asset deployment solutions, supporting 4,500+ clients valued at £70m each EBITDA.

Acted as a 'trusted advisor' on Information Security and Cyber Security, engaging with key stakeholders.

Key contributions and successes:

- Delineated people, process and technology from Capita following the £900m divestiture to LAS
- Successfully delivered a series of changes to Cyber Security in full alignment with Link Group

Unilever, Cheshire
Cloud Security Consultant (Contract)

Feb 2015 to May 2017

Took ownership for the Global Cloud Security function, engaging as a consultant and advising on securely transitioning to cloud-based platforms, leveraging Microsoft Azure, AWS, Salesforce, and O365.

Key contributions and successes:

- Specified, acquired, designed, installed, and managed new security-compliant systems into BAU
- Successfully defined, articulated & integrated a security strategy to optimise cloud native capabilities

Early Career

2013 to 2015	Risk and Security Consultant	Unilever, Cheshire
2010 to 2013	Principal Solutions Architect	Intel Corporation, Slough
2007 to 2010	Product Line Director	McAfee, Slough
2006 to 2007	Technical Manager, EMEA	Guidance Software
2000 to 2006	Principal Security Solutions Consultant	McAfee, Slough

**** Earlier career history available upon request ****

Professional Certifications

ISC2	Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
ISC2	Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
Cybrary, Inc.	Cloud Fundamentals Certification
Amazon Web Services	AWS Solutions Architect / Security Speciality (Beta)
Microsoft Academy	Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)

Recommendations

From Paul Smith "<https://www.linkedin.com/in/pdsmithmba>" (CIO at Amnesty).

"I had the pleasure of recruiting James for an Interim Information Security Officer role at Amnesty International, where he made a significant impact on the organisation's cybersecurity posture in a short space of time. James focussed in on pain points and the quick wins immediately and set about further developing Information Security Maturity and the operations of the team; improving communication with key stakeholders and the rest of the business in parallel.

He brought in key technical security standards and spearheaded a comprehensive tactical effort to improve the organisation's cybersecurity posture, demonstrating his practical, hands-on approach. James also did a great job with our 3rd party vendors, working well with different teams to make sure our partners understand and meet our security requirements. One of his standout contributions was working to set up an Information Security Governance Committee, showing strategic thinking in seeking to obtain alignment and support from senior leadership and peers.

In short, James' time with us was significantly impactful for our cybersecurity posture. His clear leadership, calm and logical approach, personable nature, deep knowledge and determination have made our organisation safer. I highly recommend James for any cybersecurity role.

He is a talented and experienced professional who would be a valuable asset to any team."

Additional Information

UK Citizen Excellent references available **Flexible on location** for the right opportunity