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**Principles of private detective activity: a comparative analysis of  
Ukrainian and British experience for improving legal regulation**

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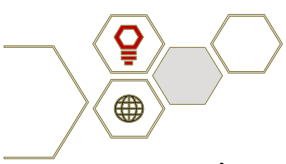
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***Annotation.** The article presents a comparative analysis of the principles of private detective activity in the United Kingdom and Ukraine, allowing for the identification of key advantages of the British approach and the potential for its adaptation to Ukrainian realities. Emphasis is placed on aspects such as mandatory licensing, the implementation of ethical standards, the protection of confidentiality, and systematic quality control. The role of Draft Law №3010 for Ukraine, its shortcomings, and potential benefits in shaping a modern legal framework for regulating detective activity is also examined. It is determined that British experience, particularly the principles enshrined in the Private Security Industry Act 2001 and the Security Industry Authority Standards of 2014, can be adapted to Ukrainian conditions to enhance the professionalisation of the sector, ensure transparency, and increase trust in detective*



*services. Recommendations are proposed for implementing a comprehensive approach to regulating private detective activity in Ukraine, including licensing, the development of professional training standards, the introduction of regular audits, and the creation of mechanisms for effective confidentiality protection. The analysis of sources, judicial practice, and research confirms the importance of integrating the best international practices to establish a competitive market for detective services in Ukraine. Implementing these recommendations will address key issues, such as the low qualification level of specialists, lack of oversight, and insufficient legal framework. The article inspires further research and practical application of international experience in the field of detective activity to ensure the protection of citizens' rights and the improvement of professional standards.*

**Keywords:** *private detective activity, principles, legal regulation, comparative analysis, British legislation, professional ethics of a detective.*

### **Принципи приватної детективної діяльності: порівняльний аналіз українського та британського досвіду для вдосконалення правового регулювання**

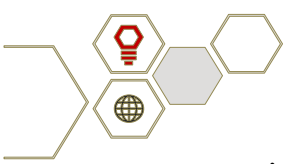
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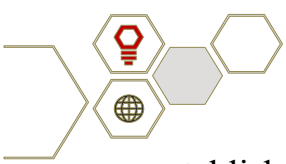
**Анотація.** *У статті здійснено порівняльний аналіз принципів приватної детективної діяльності у Великій Британії та Україні, що дозволило визначити*



ключові переваги британського підходу та можливості його адаптації до українських реалій. Акцентовано увагу на таких аспектах, як обов'язкове ліцензування, впровадження етичних стандартів, захист конфіденційності та систематичний контроль якості. Окремо розглянуто роль Законопроєкту №3010 для України, його недоліки та потенційні переваги у формуванні сучасної нормативно-правової бази для регулювання детективної діяльності. Визначено, що британський досвід, зокрема принципи, закріплені в Законі про приватну охоронну індустрію 2001 року та стандартах Управління індустрії безпеки 2014 року, може бути адаптований до українських умов для посилення професіоналізації галузі, забезпечення прозорості та підвищення рівня довіри до детективних послуг. Запропоновані рекомендації щодо впровадження комплексного підходу до регулювання приватної детективної діяльності в Україні, включно із ліцензуванням, розробкою стандартів професійної підготовки, запровадженням регулярних аудитів та створенням механізмів ефективного захисту конфіденційної інформації. Аналіз джерел, судової практики та досліджень підтверджує важливість інтеграції найкращих міжнародних практик для формування конкурентоспроможного ринку детективних послуг в Україні. Впровадження зазначених рекомендацій дозволить вирішити ключові проблеми, такі як низький рівень підготовки спеціалістів, відсутність контролю та недостатня нормативно-правова база. Стаття мотивує до подальших досліджень і практичного застосування міжнародного досвіду у сфері детективної діяльності для забезпечення захисту прав громадян і вдосконалення професійних стандартів.

**Ключові слова:** приватна детективна діяльність, принципи, правове регулювання, порівняльний аналіз, британське законодавство, професійна етика детектива.

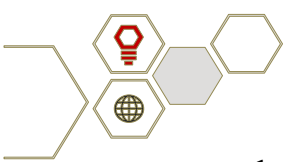
**Introduction.** The dynamic development of private detective activities in Ukraine highlights the growing demand for professional investigative services that require adherence to high ethical and legal standards. However, unlike countries with



established traditions of regulation in this field, domestic practice continues to face challenges such as a legal vacuum, low qualification levels of specialists, and insufficient regulation of key operational principles. These challenges become even more apparent due to the absence of systematic licensing mechanisms and controls, undermining public trust in the institution of private investigation. The study of British regulatory experience in detective activities is particularly valuable for improving Ukrainian legislation. The United Kingdom, through the implementation of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 and the standards of the Security Industry Authority (SIA), has ensured transparency, ethical conduct, and professionalism in the private investigation sector, creating an exemplary model to follow. The combination of mandatory licensing, strict quality control of services, and comprehensive mechanisms for ensuring confidentiality has made the British system one of the most successful examples of private security regulation worldwide. This article aims to conduct a comparative analysis of the principles of private detective activities in the United Kingdom and Ukraine, identify existing gaps in Ukrainian legislation, and propose practical recommendations for creating an effective legal framework. The proposed solutions are based on advanced international experience while considering Ukraine's legal traditions and its need for high-quality operational standards. The introduction of innovative approaches to the regulation of detective activities in Ukraine can not only address the current issues in the sector but also lay the foundation for fostering a culture of professional ethics and public trust.

**Problem Statement.** Amid the rapid development of the private detective sector in Ukraine, the study of the fundamental principles of conducting detective activities has become particularly relevant. Notably, over the past three years, the number of registered detective agencies in Ukraine has tripled, reaching 178 entities, which indicates a growing demand for detective services. Therefore, the establishment of clear legal mechanisms to ensure compliance with general principles remains an important task for the domestic legal system.

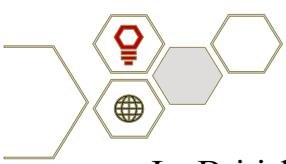
**Analysis of Recent Studies and Publications.** In analysing the issues of legal regulation of private detective activity, attention was focused on modern scientific



research, legislative acts of the United Kingdom and Ukraine, as well as practical examples that highlight the effectiveness of the mechanisms used. Fundamental legislative acts, such as the Private Security Industry Act 2001[1, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/12/section/1>] and the standards approved by the Security Industry Authority in 2014 [4, p. 6, [sia.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://sia.homeoffice.gov.uk)], form the basis for the functioning of the private detective sector. Research by British scholars, notably Button and Stiernstedt, emphasises the importance of licensing and certification as integral parts of regulating professional activity [2, 3, p. 12(3-4), 257-273.]. Ethical and professional standards are significantly reinforced by provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 [7, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents.>], which regulate the handling of confidential information. Studies by Miller and Brown highlight the advantages of systematic quality control, including auditing and disciplinary mechanisms [9, 11, p. 22(2), 78-89]. Draft Law № 3010, concerning the regulation of detective activity in Ukraine, remains under development [5, [https://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?pf3511=68174.](https://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=68174.)]. It's analysis reveals gaps in protecting citizens' rights and in ethical regulation. Ukrainian researchers, such as Rudenko and Bandurka, emphasise the need for clear definitions of the principles of activity and mechanisms for their implementation [10, ст. 23(2), 25]. The analysis of specific examples, such as the operations of agencies in the United Kingdom ("Manchester Investigations", "Belgravia Investigators"), demonstrates the success of implemented mechanisms for control, licensing, and confidentiality protection. The analysis of sources confirms the need to improve the Ukrainian system by adopting proven British mechanisms, such as licensing, regular audits, clear ethical standards, and legislative regulation of confidentiality.

Based on the analysis of this scientific article, we can highlight the following **unresolved aspects of the general problem** that require additional research:

- The uncertainty of the boundaries of detective activities in Ukraine. One of the main unresolved problems is the lack of clear definitions of permissible methods of information collection. This creates space for conflicts in ensuring the right to privacy.



In British legislation, in particular in the Private Security Industry Act 2001, such aspects are clearly outlined. In Ukrainian conditions, it is important to clarify the boundaries of detective activities in order to avoid legal conflicts and protect citizens from possible abuse.

- Insufficient regulation of confidentiality. In Ukraine, mechanisms for the systematic protection of information collected by detectives, including personal data of clients, have not yet been created. The lack of confidentiality standards increases the risks of data leakage and abuse. The British experience with the implementation of multi-level information protection systems (technical, procedural and legal) can become the basis for the development of similar approaches in Ukraine.

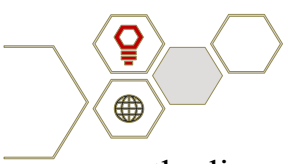
- The lack of a clear system of certification and quality control. The Ukrainian system of detective activities is characterized by a low level of qualification of personnel. At the same time, in the UK, mandatory licensing and regular audits are applied, which ensure high quality of services. It is important to explore the possibilities of introducing mechanisms for certification and continuous professional development of detectives in Ukraine in order to bring professional standards closer to British ones.

- Disadvantages of draft law No. 3010. Although the said draft law is aimed at regulating detective activities, it lacks specific provisions on qualification requirements, data storage mechanisms and a clear procedure for monitoring the activities of detectives. Analysis of court case No. 752/12019/19 demonstrates the relevance of these issues, since the lack of clear norms complicates law enforcement.

- Interaction with law enforcement agencies. Ukrainian legislation does not regulate the procedures for cooperation of private detectives with state structures, which may lead to duplication of functions or conflicts of interest. British experience in developing cooperation protocols is a promising direction for research.

- A systematic approach to implementing ethical standards. Despite the growing demand for detective services in Ukraine, the lack of clear ethical standards complicates the development of the industry. In the UK, similar standards are part of





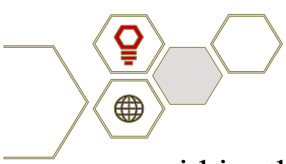
the licensing policy. The development and implementation of similar codes of ethics for Ukrainian detectives can help increase trust in the industry.

**To achieve the stated goal, the following tasks have been defined:** to analyse the legal codification of the principles of detective activities in both countries; to identify problematic aspects of compliance with these principles in the Ukrainian context; to develop proposals for the implementation of positive British experience.

**The methodological framework of the study** encompasses both general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, comparison) and specialised legal methods: the formal-dogmatic method (for analysing legal acts), the comparative legal method (for comparing British and Ukrainian experiences), and the sociological method (for conducting surveys).

**Presentation of the main material.** Before the adoption of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (PSIA), the activities of private security and detective structures in the United Kingdom were minimally regulated, leading to several issues, including a lack of quality control over services, insufficient staff training, and abuses within the security sector. Following several high-profile incidents and public demand for transparency and reliability in private security services, the government decided to introduce a mandatory licensing and regulatory system enshrined in the PSIA. The enactment of this law was of strategic importance, as it created a transparent security market that meets contemporary societal needs and protects citizens' rights from potential abuses by private entities. The adoption of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (PSIA) demonstrated the UK's national commitment to ensuring ethical and professional standards within the private security market, serving as a model for other countries. Private Security Industry Act 2001 established a comprehensive approach to regulating the private security sector, highlighting several key aspects:

- Scope of the Act. Private Security Industry Act 2001 encompasses not only private detective activities but also security-related services, such as the protection of public and private facilities, access control, patrolling, and the collection of intelligence for individuals and legal entities. The Act clearly defines the boundaries of operations



within the security sector, preventing excessive and unlawful actions by private entities.

- **Mandatory Licensing.** Private Security Industry Act 2001 requires all individuals intending to engage in private detective activities, security, or other safety-related services to obtain a license. The licensing process includes vetting candidates for professional suitability, absence of criminal records, and completion of specialised training that aligns with the standards set by the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

- **Establishment of the Security Industry Authority (SIA).** Under Private Security Industry Act 2001, the UK established an independent body, the Security Industry Authority, responsible for issuing licenses, monitoring license holders' activities, verifying their compliance with established standards, and overseeing and regulating the private security market. The Security Industry Authority also develops ethical standards and ensures their enforcement, including imposing penalties for breaches of licensing conditions.

Thus, as we can observe, the British model demonstrates a range of advantages. It contributes to enhancing public trust in private detective agencies, ensures transparency in their operations, and prevents illegal actions and abuses by their employees. Furthermore, the licensing system helps maintain high standards of services offered in the security market. The British model also establishes a clear hierarchy of responsibility and imposes substantial fines for operating without a license, thereby encouraging adherence to professional obligations. However, despite its advantages, the Private Security Industry Act 2001 also has certain shortcomings. The high cost of obtaining a license and the requirement to undergo specialised training may act as barriers for those wishing to enter the industry. Research indicates that a significant portion of violations in the private security sector is linked to the illegal activities of entities that bypass licensing, complicating market oversight. Consequently, the Security Industry Authority requires additional powers and resources to monitor unlicensed operators effectively. This British regulatory model, as established by the Private Security Industry Act 2001, has become an example for other countries, particularly within the European Union, which aspire to implement



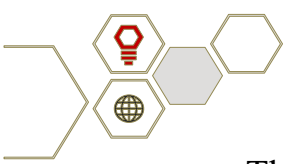


effective regulations in this sector. Countries such as the Netherlands and France have adopted the core principles of the PSIA, tailoring them to their respective legislative systems. A similar licensing system has also been implemented in Australia, where an independent authority was developed to oversee the activities of private detectives and security professionals, based on principles of transparency, ethics, and accountability. The initial standards were set by the Private Security Industry Act 2001. However, the rapid development of technology, the increasing complexity of security operations, and growing demands for professional training necessitated a review of these standards. As a result, the Security Industry Authority introduced updated standards in 2014, which detail licensing procedures and define the qualifications required for employees in the private security sector. The SIA Licensing system is mandatory for all individuals providing security and detective services in the United Kingdom. It incorporates several key aspects:

- Licensing Based on Qualifications and Clean Criminal Records. The licensing system is founded on stringent requirements for candidates. These include proof of appropriate qualifications, completion of specialised training, and verification of a clean criminal record. This approach not only ensures the professional level of security personnel but also protects citizens from abuses and violations by private security employees.

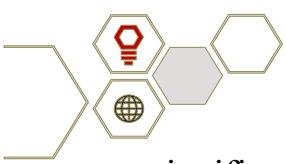
- Standards for Professional Training and Education. One of the critical requirements of the SIA is mandatory training under approved programs. The standards introduced in 2014 specify the competencies that employees must possess, including knowledge of law enforcement, ethical norms, and psychology, which serve as the foundation for appropriate behaviour in crisis situations. Such training ensures a high level of accountability expected by British society from private security professionals.

- Monitoring and Control of Compliance with Licensing Requirements. The SIA continuously supervises adherence to established standards, conducting regular inspections and evaluating compliance with safety and ethical norms. Licenses issued by this authority can be revoked in cases of violations, which motivates private security agencies to uphold high operational standards.



The updated SIA standards, introduced in 2014, have strengthened accountability within the private security sector and established clear requirements for the quality of services. Under these standards, all employees of security agencies are required to adhere to high ethical norms and professional standards, including the provision of services within the legal framework and with respect for human rights. These standards are designed to enhance public trust in private security services, which is particularly important given the increasing role of these entities in ensuring safety in crowded places and private companies. In addition, the 2014 standards aim to prevent conflicts of interest and abuses by security services, particularly in cases of cooperation with law enforcement agencies. Thus, the SIA not only performs oversight functions but also serves as a guarantor of safety, responsibility, and professionalism. The updated SIA standards, introduced in 2014, have strengthened accountability within the private security sector and established clear requirements for service quality. According to these standards, all employees of security agencies are required to adhere to high ethical norms and professional standards, which include providing services within the legal framework and respecting human rights. These standards aim to enhance public trust in private security services, which is especially significant given the increasing role of these entities in ensuring safety in crowded places and private companies. Furthermore, the 2014 standards contribute to preventing conflicts of interest and abuses by security services, particularly in cases of collaboration with law enforcement agencies. Thus, the SIA not only performs oversight functions but also acts as a guarantor of safety, accountability, and professionalism.

Attention must also be drawn to Ukraine's Draft Law №3010 of 2020, which proposes legal regulation of detective services. Particular focus should be placed on gaps in regulation and an analysis of judicial practice in case №752/12019/19, which became a precedent for understanding the shortcomings of the current legislation. By comparing the draft law with existing practices, we can identify the primary challenges and the need to improve the legal framework to safeguard citizens' rights and uphold ethical standards in private detective activities. Draft Law №3010 was developed to establish a clear regulatory framework for private detective activities in Ukraine, where



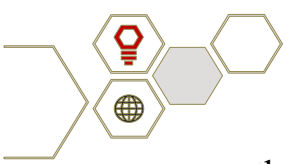
significant interest in this sector is observed, but issues with its legal regulation remain. The draft law includes provisions for licensing, the procedure for providing detective services, the rights and obligations of detectives, ethical standards, and restrictions on data collection and usage. The purpose of this draft law is to ensure high standards in the field of private investigations while protecting citizens' rights. Adopting this law aims to eliminate legal gaps arising from the lack of regulation in this area and to establish control over detective activities, particularly regarding the protection of personal data and the prevention of privacy violations. The initiative also provides for the qualification training of detectives and the creation of a unified register of individuals authorised to perform such activities. Although Draft Law №3010 proposes essential foundations for regulating detective activities, it has several shortcomings and unresolved issues, which include:

- Lack of clear definitions of activity boundaries. The Draft Law does not provide clear definitions of permitted methods of information collection, which may lead to conflicts in ensuring privacy rights. This creates opportunities for abuses and difficulties in determining the legality of detectives' actions, especially concerning surveillance and audio or video recording.

- Qualification and training issues. While the draft law requires qualifications for performing detective activities, it does not detail the requirements for professional training, which could pose challenges in assessing the professionalism and integrity of detectives.

- Insufficient regulation of data storage and usage. The draft does not propose clear provisions for protecting collected data, including personal information. This poses a potential threat to citizens' rights, as unregulated data storage may lead to information leaks or unauthorised usage.

Considering judicial case №752/12019/19, it becomes evident that this case highlighted key issues in the field of detective activities caused by the lack of clear legislative norms. In this case, an individual engaging in activities resembling detective work was accused of privacy violations, as their actions did not fall under regulated legal activity. The absence of appropriate legislative regulation made it difficult to

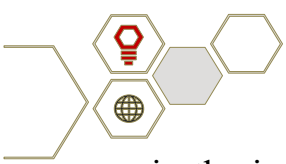


assess the legality of their actions. It is significant to note that case №752/12019/19 caused substantial resonance within legal circles regarding the admissibility of the evidence obtained, creating a precedent for future cases and justifying the necessity of adopting draft law №3010. This underscores the relevance of legislative changes that provide clear guidelines for judges in making decisions regarding the legitimacy of private detectives' actions.

Let's consider the principle of confidentiality, which is a cornerstone of private detective work in many countries, including the United Kingdom and Ukraine. This principle mandates the obligatory preservation of information obtained during investigations as confidential, thereby protecting the privacy of clients and individuals involved in data collection processes. Adhering to confidentiality not only safeguards citizens' rights but also enhances trust in detective services, professionalises the field, and secures the informational environment. In the British context, the principle of confidentiality is supported by strict ethical and legislative standards. Legislative acts such as the Data Protection Act 2018 serve as the foundation for the work of private detectives, regulating the collection, storage, processing, and transfer of information. In the British model, compliance with confidentiality is a mandatory condition for licensing and professional activity, and violations are subject to accountability. One key example of adherence to confidentiality is the case of Belgravia Investigators, a private detective agency that developed and implemented a three-tiered information protection system. This system ensures the safety and confidentiality of data at various stages of investigations, including collection, storage, and transmission. The three-tiered approach consists of the following components:

1. First Level - technical protection. This involves the use of specialised software to encrypt electronically stored information. All electronic devices and databases containing confidential information are secured with passwords and encryption based on modern security protocols.

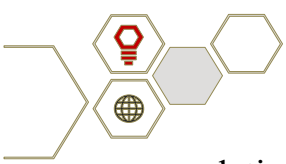
2. Second Level - procedural measures. At this level, strict adherence to company policies regarding the handling of confidential information is ensured. This includes limiting access to data exclusively to authorised personnel directly involved



in the investigation. Procedures are also in place to restrict data access for all other agency employees.

3. Third Level - legal mechanisms. This includes the legal protection of confidential information through the execution of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with clients, contractors, and employees. Such measures ensure the preservation of confidentiality even in cases of potential legal claims or court proceedings.

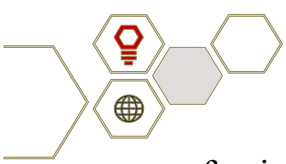
Through this three-tiered system, Belgravia Investigators achieved a high level of confidentiality protection, serving as an example for many other agencies in the United Kingdom. The British practice demonstrates the effectiveness of a comprehensive approach to data protection, encompassing technical, organisational, and legal aspects. In Ukraine, the principle of confidentiality is also a vital aspect of detective activities, but it remains insufficiently regulated legislatively. The absence of unified standards and requirements for ensuring confidentiality complicates the work of detective agencies, as they lack clear guidelines for protecting information to the standard of British practices. For instance, while Ukrainian detectives often sign non-disclosure agreements with clients, these do not always adequately protect information due to gaps in legal regulation and a lack of government oversight. Current practices in Ukraine for protecting confidential information are generally limited to standard contractual obligations and minimal use of technical measures. Most agencies lack a systematic approach to data protection, increasing the risk of unauthorised access or data leaks. Moreover, Ukrainian legislation does not yet mandate the licensing of detective activities, which significantly reduces the possibility of enforcing and monitoring confidentiality standards. The British experience shows that effective data protection requires the implementation of comprehensive measures encompassing technical, organisational, and legal dimensions. Ukrainian legislation could adopt the British three-tiered approach to data protection, ensuring an adequate level of confidentiality in the activities of detective agencies. The first step could involve mandatory licensing of private detectives with requirements for technical data protection, procedural policies, and compulsory non-disclosure agreements. Additionally, the introduction of relevant provisions in data protection legislation,



regulating the processing of information by private detectives and imposing strict penalties for breaches of confidentiality, should be considered.

The next principle to consider is the principle of professional competence, which requires detectives to possess adequate qualifications that ensure a high level of training, knowledge, and skills necessary for the successful completion of tasks. In international practice, this principle is often specified through requirements for educational attainment, work experience, certification, and ongoing professional development. For instance, in the United Kingdom, approximately 87% of private detectives hold higher education degrees, reflecting high standards of training for professionals in this field. In contrast, the educational level of detectives in Ukraine is significantly lower, with only 35% possessing higher education. This disparity highlights the need for reforms in this area and the strengthening of requirements for training and certification of personnel. A comparison reveals that in countries with established traditions of private investigation, significant attention is paid to the certification of professionals, which verifies their competence and provides clients with a guarantee of service quality. The United Kingdom has a well-developed certification system for private detectives, which includes mandatory training, examinations, and subsequent monitoring of professionals' activities. This system is designed to ensure that every detective possesses sufficient knowledge in areas such as criminal law, ethics, psychology, information security, and practical skills in working with modern investigation technologies. On the other hand, in Ukraine, legislative regulation in this area is still in its early stages, and the issue of certification and continuous professional development of detectives remains unresolved. One of the critical aspects of implementing the principle of professional competence is the requirement for regular professional development. In developed countries, private detectives are required to undergo ongoing training and professional development to keep their knowledge and skills current with changes in legislation, investigative methods, technology, and ethical standards. For example, in the United Kingdom, detectives attend annual professional development courses, which enable them to stay informed about the latest developments in their profession. In Ukraine, however, the requirements for





professional development of detectives are not yet stringent, creating risks of declining professional competence and service quality. To enhance the effectiveness of detective activities in Ukraine, it would be prudent to implement a system of mandatory certification, establish requirements for educational attainment and experience, and develop programmes for regular professional development. These measures would foster greater trust in detective services and improve their overall quality.

Quality control of detective services is another crucial aspect of effective detective activity, as it determines adherence to ethical standards, the legality of detectives' actions, and the quality of the services provided. The British model of quality control in the field of detective activity is among the most advanced globally, making it a benchmark for other countries, including Ukraine. The mechanisms of quality control in the United Kingdom aim to ensure transparency, compliance with legal standards, and a high level of professional competence among detectives. Regular quality audits, feedback mechanisms, and the possibility of license revocation in case of violations play a significant role in this system. An annual quality audit is a mandatory condition for the renewal of a detective activity license in the United Kingdom. This audit encompasses the verification of all aspects of a detective's or agency's operations, including compliance with clients' rights, protection of confidentiality, adherence to legal requirements, and professional standards. Based on the audit results, recommendations may be issued to improve operations, or, in cases of significant violations, the suspension or revocation of a license may be considered. An example of a successful audit is the 2023 case of "Manchester Investigations," where an audit revealed certain deficiencies in handling clients' confidential information. Following the audit, the agency implemented necessary measures to enhance its internal data protection policies, which allowed it to retain its license and improve service quality. The license revocation system is an essential preventive mechanism that imposes strict penalties on detectives and agencies found guilty of serious violations. The British model allows not only the suspension of a license for specific breaches but also permanent revocation for systematic non-compliance with standards. This approach ensures discipline within the sector and enhances clients' trust



in detective services. The prospects of implementing the British model of quality control in Ukraine are both intriguing and challenging, given a range of factors complicating this process. First and foremost, legislative regulation of private detective activity in Ukraine is still in its formative stage, requiring refinement with consideration of international experience. One of the priority steps could be the introduction of a mandatory annual audit system for detectives and agencies to evaluate their compliance with quality standards. To implement British practices in Ukraine, it would be prudent to develop a system of professional licensing that includes regular inspections and the possibility of license revocation for gross violations. This could be achieved through the establishment of a dedicated oversight body or department within the Ministry of Justice responsible for conducting audits and quality control of detective services. Additionally, feedback mechanisms from clients should become a vital part of the system, enabling the identification of problematic areas in detectives' activities and timely responses to potential complaints.

**Conclusions.** Based on the conducted research into the principles of detective activities in Ukraine and the United Kingdom, and relying on an analysis of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 and Ukraine's Draft Law on Private Detective Activities №3010 of 2020, the following conclusions can be drawn: our study revealed a significant gap: while the principles of detective activities are enshrined in the Security Industry Authority Standards (2014) in the UK, Ukraine lacks a comparable systematic document. In practice, this often forces Ukrainian detectives to operate through a trial-and-error approach, as evidenced by materials from case №752/12019/19. A notable example is the experience of the London-based agency “Belgravia Investigators”, where the principle of confidentiality is implemented through a three-tiered information protection system that includes:

- Signing non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with all employees.
- Encrypting investigation data.
- Conducting quarterly audits to ensure compliance with security procedures.

An impressive statistic is that 87% of British private detectives possess relevant higher education qualifications (according to the UK Private Investigators Association



in 2023), while in Ukraine, this figure does not exceed 35%. This highlights the urgent need for mandatory certification of detectives, akin to the British SIA Licensing system. Additionally, British detective agencies are required to undergo annual service quality audits. For instance, in 2023, “Manchester Investigations” lost its license due to violations of the confidentiality principle, which underscores the effectiveness of the quality control system.

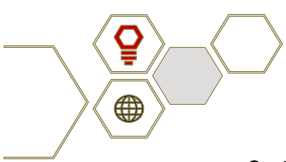
**Recommendations.** Based on the research findings, we propose the following:

- Develop and adopt National Standards for Private Detective Activities in Ukraine, using the British SIA Standards model as a reference.
- Introduce mandatory certification for detectives through the establishment of the National Association of Private Detectives of Ukraine (similar to UKPIN).
- Establish clear procedures for cooperation with law enforcement agencies by developing corresponding protocols (modeled on the British “Protocols of Cooperation”).

Future research should focus on developing concrete mechanisms for implementing British practices in the Ukrainian context, taking into account the country’s legal traditions and socio-economic characteristics. Promising areas for further study include an in-depth examination of mechanisms for ensuring compliance with the principles of private detective activities and the development of detailed procedures for their practical implementation within the Ukrainian legal system. The proposed conclusions and recommendations are aimed at improving the legal regulation of the principles of private detective activities in Ukraine and may be used in drafting relevant regulatory acts.

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