# WOMEN IN IT:

## Janine Royle

Information Security Governance Audit
and Bid Support Lead at SSCL.

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### Can you tell me about your role within SSCL?

I'm part of the Information Security Governance Team, it's not what you would call a typical IT tech role. I'm responsible for initial bid response handling in terms of security perspective.

But the other side of my role is all about information security audits and audit planning. I support our information security governance and the rest of the team in managing audit provision for our ISO 27,001 certification. Now I'm doing internal audits and I'm going to be managing the arrangements of the external audits that we have with our third-party certification body. I really enjoy the challenge.

### Can you tell me about your career journey to this point so far?

Originally, I was in the MOD Shared Services field for just over 22 years. I was mainly in payroll operations, but I also did project work, operational delivery roles and some senior support roles. Most of the roles I have done have required some sort of analytical task using data to get answers and that's the sort of thing that I like.

I used to love doing payroll because it's very analytical and there's no room for interpretation. It's either right or it's wrong and I've always liked roles like that, but also the opportunities to interact with other people.

## SSCL

I used to be a business skills trainer, I have been attracted to roles that perhaps other people thought were either a bit boring or a bit risky because they were secondments and not permanent.

I've taken a few opportunities like 12 months secondments or where there hasn't been a promise of a job at the end of it, I'm attracted to that kind of challenge.

I've done quite a few roles where I was the first person in that role, and that's also the case for one of my previous positions at SSCL. I was the Quality and Risk Manager, bringing the ISO 9001 certification into the business.

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## Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

Really good question, I have recently moved into this role, I'm still settling in and learning all about Information Security Governance. In five years', time, I will want to be the go-to person if anybody in the business wants to know anything about Information Security. If my manager is not available, go and find Janine and I want to be the reliable deputy for my manager.

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## Who inspires you as a woman working in the IT industry, and why?

I didn't really think of anybody specific in the IT industry, although in SSCL we've got quite a few firsts. We've got our first female Chief Security Officer.

A couple of years ago we had our first Chief Finance Officer, our Chief Operating Officers for some of our sectors are women as well.

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## In your experience, what are the benefits of having women in IT?

I think that female colleagues bring a slightly different dynamic to what's seen as a male orientated environment. IT isn't just about tech, and I think

bringing our female perspectives, our experiences and backgrounds is really positive.

I also think that if younger female colleagues are thinking they can't do that because there are no females in that area. Somebody has to be first but we need to see people in those roles to think, I can do that too.

Alot of my skills have been very, well received in the team in terms of I haven't got a technical tech background. I've brought operational and company skills; you underestimate your transferable skills and experience because people in the team have been so welcoming and appreciative of me sharing my skills that are slightly different to theirs.

## Do you have any work-related lessons that are unique to being a woman?

I would say don't be afraid of being different to the IT stereotype. Don't be afraid to be different, diversity is what makes our teams great. Don't think that you can't do it because you absolutely can.

## What advice would you give to the next generation of women working in the IT industry?

Ask the questions because that's how I came into this role. I saw the advert internally and thought it's in Information Security. I'm not sure that that would be for me because I don't have that background. I asked a lot of questions before applying to find out more about the role.

That's what I would say if you're thinking of applying, ask lots of questions, talk to people who have made that move and don't be afraid to be the first.