

## SANDRA CONNERY



**Job:** Information Assurance Lead

**Company:** Atkins

I am now working as an Information Assurance Lead for a Global organisation. Previously I have worked in Cyber Security, in both Public and Private sectors. My aim is always to make cyber/information security part of the normal business process for organisations and individuals. Not just 'an add on'.

Optimistic

Resilient

Proactive

**The skills I use most in my job...**Leadership – drive projects forward and provide leadership to colleagues.

- Ability to see the big picture – always looking at how any solution meets the business needs.

- Problem solving – problems are just waiting for solutions to be found.
- Collaboration – collaborating with different stakeholders from different areas of the business with different skills sets, helps to achieve the best results.
- Proactivity – ability to take the initiative.

**The most interesting thing I've worked on in my career so far...**Bringing together individuals from Government, Academia, and Industry to work together. Bringing together their diverse ways of thinking to solve Industry problems, bringing benefit to all.

**What inspired me into digital and tech...**Two things. – my last year's Degree project on 'WIFI and the lack of security', being told it was 'a waste of time', as there was no future in it!

**My educational background is...**I left school with GCEs, age 16, and joined the Army in my late teens. In my 30's I enrolled in the Open University and graduated with an IT and Computing BSc Hons, whilst working fulltime and having a child. I used my degree to started working in Information Security, continuing my studying to achieve my CISSP certification.

**What advice I'd give to girls thinking about a career in digital and tech...**Do not be put off by other people. It is not just about tech! It is not just about sitting in a dark room coding! There are a wide variety of areas to work in, research and explore, be open-minded, and reach out to others to ask advice.