



Welcome to this week's edition of Defuse News

A weekly briefing for individuals, families and the advisers who work alongside them — on protecting privacy, understanding exposure, and managing personal risk calmly, before problems escalate.

Each week, I draw on what I am seeing in my own work — behavioural threats, unwanted attention, fixation, reputational pressure, and the calls most people are never properly taught to make — and write about it plainly. Alongside the casework, I also write about the things that quietly hold the best adviser relationships together: trust, discretion, specialism, independence, judgement, and the personal connection that good advice depends on.

Serious situations very rarely arrive without warning. They build slowly, often in plain sight, and the most common mistakes are doing nothing when something is actually wrong and overreacting when nothing is.

The aim of Defuse News is to help the people around prominent clients recognise these situations earlier, respond to them appropriately, and reflect on the advisory relationships that underpin them.

Defuse Global has no commercial ties to close protection teams, technology providers or security firms. The judgement we offer is independent. Clarity, not protection, is the outcome that matters.

Philip Grindell MSc CSyP Founder & CEO Defuse Global

Trusted Adviser on Behavioural Threats and Risk Mitigation, Author, *Personal Threat Management: The Practitioner's Guide to Keeping Clients Safer*, Former Counter-Terrorism Security Coordinator, UK Government and Royal Family, Listed in the *Spear's 500* as Top Recommended in Security, Intelligence and Investigations

Your Personal Information Is Being Bought and Sold

Why Family Offices Should Care

Recent media reports have highlighted a growing issue: personal information has become a commodity.

For wealthy families, this is not simply a cyber concern.

 **It is a personal security issue.**

Where Most Threats Actually Begin

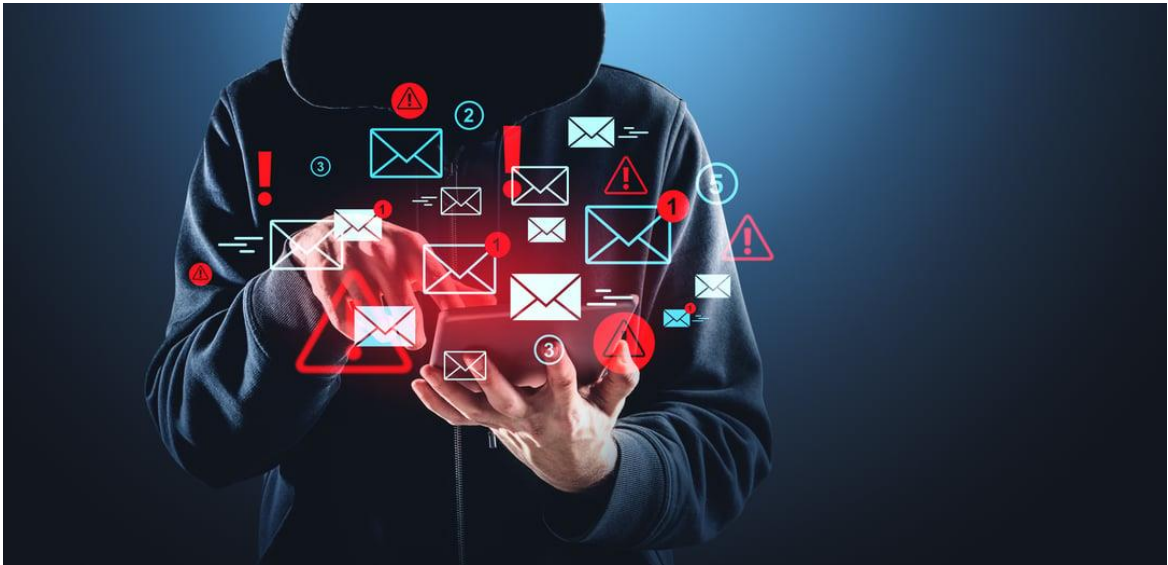
One of the biggest misconceptions I encounter is the belief that security incidents begin with a threat, a hostile message or a suspicious approach.

They almost always begin with **information**.

- A home address.
- A personal mobile number.
- Details of family members.
- Property ownership records.
- Travel patterns.
- Names of household staff.
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Individually, these pieces of information appear harmless.

Together, they can provide an extraordinarily detailed picture of a family's private life.



What Can Someone Discover About You?

Many of the individuals and families we advise are surprised by how much information about them is available online.

This information is often gathered from:

- ✓ Public records
- ✓ Commercial databases
- ✓ Marketing lists
- ✓ Social media activity
- ✓ Historic data breaches

Entire industries now exist to collect, package and sell personal information.

In many cases, a determined individual can obtain significant information about a family within an hour.

Why This Matters

The information available online can be used to facilitate:

- Fraud

- Social engineering
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Reputational attacks
- Unwanted approaches

It can also help identify vulnerabilities within a family's wider network, including assistants, advisers, household staff and younger family members.

The Pattern Is Always The Same

Over the years, I have seen a consistent sequence emerge:

Information → Familiarity → Access → Opportunity

Before there is unwanted contact, there is research.

Before there is research, there is information

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The individual causing concern often starts with nothing more sophisticated than a search engine, a social media platform, or a people-search website.

✓ The Good News

The good news is that exposure can often be reduced significantly.

Many personal details can be removed from commercial databases and people-search websites.

Existing exposure can be identified and assessed.

Monitoring can help identify when information reappears or when compromised data begins circulating where it should not.

Most importantly, families can gain a clearer understanding of the information that others can access about them.

Digital Exposure Is A Risk Management Issue

Family offices routinely review:

- Investment risk
- Legal risk
- Operational risk
- Reputational risk

Digital exposure deserves the same level of attention because it often serves as the foundation for other threats.

The families who manage this well are not necessarily the most private.

They are the ones who understand what information is available, where it can be found and what it might mean in the wrong hands.

A Question Worth Asking

If someone decided to research your family today, how much could they discover in the next hour?

If you do not know the answer, it may be time to find out.

Confidential Digital Exposure Reviews

At Defuse Global, we help prominent individuals, family offices and trusted advisers understand and reduce their digital exposure.

Through discreet assessments and ongoing monitoring, we identify available information, explain the associated risks in plain English, and help clients take practical steps to reduce unnecessary exposure.

Reply to this email or contact us for a confidential discussion.

We help prominent people feel safer in their public and private lives.



Why I wrote 'Personal Threat Management: The Practitioner's Guide to Keeping Clients Safer'

Most security advice is sold to people rather than built for them. Someone arrives with a product to push, and the client ends up with guards, gates, and gadgets that do very little to address the risks they actually face. I wrote this book to offer something different.

Personal Threat Management is the practitioner's guide to keeping clients safer in a world that has changed faster than the advice most people are given. It draws on what I learned setting up the threat assessment team in Parliament after Jo Cox was murdered, and on the years since, spent protecting families from threats that are rarely physical and almost never loud.

The aim is a simple one. Help the people around prominent clients see trouble coming, respond appropriately, and avoid the two mistakes I see again and again:

doing nothing when something is genuinely wrong, and overreacting when nothing is.

I'm grateful it has found its readers. It is an Amazon bestseller and a finalist in the 2026 Business Book Awards, and it carries generous words from Neil Basu, former head of UK Counter Terrorism Policing, and from Kim Leadbeater MP, Jo Cox's sister, whose support means a great deal to me.

If your work brings you close to people who feel exposed, I think you will find something useful in it.

"Very likely to prevent harm, and perhaps even to save lives." **Robert A. Fein, co-author of the US Secret Service Exceptional Case Study Project**

"Grindell's voice is ignored at your peril, and more importantly, your client's." **Julian Pike, then Head of Reputation Management and Sport at Farrer & Co, now Partner at Gunnercooke**

"A book that everyone involved in the protection of public figures should get their hands on." **Rory Stein, formerly Nelson Mandela's bodyguard**

[Purchase your copy here](#)



If anything in this newsletter has caused you to think, you may benefit from our help. Contact us at info@defuseglobal.com

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