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Thought Leadership - New Year Edition

Welcome to the New Year edition of our *Security and Risk Thought Leadership Newsletter* in which we connect you with innovative ideas and new research. In this edition:

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If you have any comments, questions or a suggestion for something we should cover, drop me an email - [Dr Janice Goldstraw-White, Thought Leadership Editor](#)



Looking forward to 2025 with Professor Martin Gill

Thank you all for your support of us throughout 2024. Last year, we launched two new award schemes in different areas (fire safety and workplace violence reduction); extended the OSPAs to more countries (and we are still growing); and expanded the Security Research Initiative. We also engaged with many different innovative projects; built on our 191 webinars by introducing our first 20 thought leadership interviews and gained more subscribers to our *Security and Risk Thought Leadership Newsletter*. Additionally, the Secured Environments certification process continues to gain momentum. A huge thank you to my colleagues: Charlotte, Janice, Josephine, Christine, Shrey, Claire and Chloe.

We are excited about 2025. We will hold our first ever Global OSPAs awards ceremony on 12th February 2025. For the first time the winners of every country/region will compete for the title of Global OSPAs winner, the best of the best. It is virtual this year but we are working on making this a physical event in the years ahead. You can register for this free to attend event [here](#).

We also have another gala awards occasion on 8th April, at The Security Event in Birmingham. We will recognise the finalists and the winners of the inaugural Fire Resilience Excellence Awards (FREAs) – sponsored by [Axa](#) – and the Workplace Violence Reduction Awards (WVRAs) – sponsored by [Maybo](#) – and the Security & Safety Entrepreneur Awards (SSEAs). If you are coming to Birmingham, don't miss this, it will be a celebration and the definitive networking event. In fact, entries to these awards are still open, so there's still time to get your entries in – see below for each award. Awards are important, recognising those who are outstanding at what they do is not a trivial matter. Do come and join us.

Things are thriving on the research front too. Our current Security Research Initiative (SRI) project question is, 'What will it take to enhance official and public perceptions of the work of security professionals?'. Do you have any thoughts on this somewhat Holy Grail of a topic? We will shortly be conducting a survey and would also like to speak to anyone who has views on this topic. For more details about supporting and engaging in the research [please contact our Head of Research, Charlotte Howell](#).

My colleague Dr Janice Goldstraw-White continues to pioneer new studies in tackling economic crime. We are currently exploring several studies that look at improving the ways in which the police and organisations approach and manage risks, [please contact Janice for more information](#).

Also, my colleague Josephine Ramm has for many years now been leading our work in the areas of community crime, policing and victimisation and plays a pivotal role in supporting UK Police Crime Commissioners and Local Authorities in developing their responses to people victimised by domestic and sexual violence. Our work in this area is helping to equip organisations with evidence-based research to shape more effective support services and enhance the police response. [Josephine can be contacted here](#).

Charlotte also leads on our work in the UK to certify organisations that have effective security via the Police accreditation scheme of Secured Environments. A range of organisations have been accredited, from shopping centres, to universities, estates, national iconic buildings, as well as commercial premises. The most recent award was presented to the Lloyd's Building by the new City of London Police Commissioner, Peter O'Doherty. For more information on this accreditation scheme, [please see here](#).

One project we developed last year that I'm particularly passionate about is the Security and Risk Thought Leadership Podcast. It has been incredibly well-received, and I want to thank you all for your engagement. It's exciting to share these insightful discussions with you, and I'm thrilled to reveal the next three episodes below. Even more episodes are planned throughout 2025, so stay tuned! www.securityinconversation.com

As you will see below, we will be on the circuit in 2025 and would love the opportunity to meet with you. We are always eager to hear your feedback and insights.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you all the very best for a healthy and happy 2025 and once again thank you for your interest and support – it truly means a lot to us.



Latest Security Thought Leadership Podcasts

We have now released twenty episodes in our "Security Thought Leadership" podcast series, with each speaker offering unique insights into the security industry and its future. For a full list of these please see: www.securityinconversation.com

The latest two episodes feature interviews with Simon Banks, and Dougie Barnett

Simon Banks

Simon is a high-profile security entrepreneur. He started work in the area of alarm signalling and went on to develop one of the UK largest IOT critical connectivity providers. He has invested in other ventures including Skills for Security. Amongst his many other ventures he has started his own Foundation (The Banks Foundation (TBFL) which is a Founding supporter of the Security & Safety Entrepreneur Awards (SSEAs).

In this podcast you will hear Simon discuss his route to becoming an entrepreneur in the security space, his views on the role of security associations, his views on the barriers to successful skills development

and approaches to changing the perceptions of security on the one hand, and the ways associations operate on the other.

Dougie Barnett

Dougie Barnett is a global leader in fire and safety management and strategic risk. He is currently managing a team of 45 loss prevention specialists. He is a regular contributor to conferences on business resilience and is often a reference point for the written and spoken media. He has worked for [AXA](#) for over two decades and they are the headline sponsors of the new [Fire Resilience Excellence Awards \(FREAs\)](#) which he helped pioneer.

Amongst the issues you will hear Dougie discuss on this podcast are: the reasons why young people should become risk managers; the changing role of insurers in risk mitigation; and how issues like climate change, technology and AI are changing risks and their management.

Future episodes to be released include:

Preeti Dubey (Singapore), Strive High - 20th January 2025

Pawan Desai (India), MitKat - 3rd February 2025

Episodes are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon, and all major platforms. Tune in to hear from leading voices in security at www.securityinconversation.com and find links to your preferred platforms at www.securityinconversation.com/



UK OSPAs – finalists announced

The finalists for the ninth edition of the 2025 UK Outstanding Security Performance Awards (OSPAs) have been announced. To view the finalists [please visit here](#).

Founded on strong ethical principles, the awards are actively supported by numerous key industry bodies and special interest groups. These organisations nominate judges to represent them, including ADS, ASC, ASIS, ATMIA, AUCSO, BSIA, COLCPA, the City Security Council, CSSC, CSyP, DISA, the Food & Drink Association, IFPO, IPSA, ISACA, ISMA, NAHS, NSI, the Police & Security Group Initiative, PSSA, SIA, SIF, Skills for Security, SSAIB, SASIG, Syl, TiNYg, True Honour, the Women's Security Society, and the UK Security Commonwealth.

This year's OSPAs awards ceremony, proudly sponsored by [AXON](#), will take place on the 20th February 2025 at the Royal Lancaster London. Hosted by the renowned comedian Ben Hanlin, the event promises an evening of celebration and recognition for outstanding performers in the security sector. To book your tickets [please visit here](#).

The seventh OSPAs Thought Leadership Summit will also be held at the same venue during the afternoon of the 20th, and this year is organised in association with the [National Security Inspectorate \(NSI\)](#). The Summit has established itself as a must-attend event in the security industry calendar, consistently selling out and attracting senior leaders. This year's event promises to be a day of compelling discussions, providing a platform for industry professionals to debate, confront and challenge the many issues facing the sector. For further details and to secure your place, [please visit here](#).



Global OSPAs

The first-ever Global Outstanding Security Performance Awards (OSPAs) will be streamed live on Wednesday, 12th February 2025. This exciting event will bring together the winners of 14 categories from around the world to compete for the prestigious Global OSPA. It's a celebration of excellence in the security industry, recognising the outstanding achievements and innovations that keep us safe.

Don't miss this ground-breaking event where top performers in the security sector will be honoured. Be part of the global audience and witness who will take home the coveted awards.

You can register [here](#) to receive the streaming link and join the live broadcast.

Meet us on the road in 2025

If you want to come meet with us in person, some dates for your diary:

[The Security Event](#) 8-10th April – Birmingham

[Big SASIG](#) 8th May – Central London

[Securex South Africa](#) 3rd-5th June – Johannesburg

[Global Security Exchange \(GSX\)](#) 29th Sept-1st Oct - New Orleans

[International Security Expo](#) 30th Sept-1st Oct – London

[The Security Event Asia](#) 11-13th November - Singapore



Final call for nominations for FREAs, WVRAs and SSEAs

The newly introduced Fire Resilience Excellence Awards (FREAs), Workplace Violence Reduction Awards (WVRAs), and Security and Safety Entrepreneur Awards (SSEAs) will be presented during a celebratory dinner at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel on the 8th of April 2025. The event will take place alongside the Safety & Security Series taking place at the NEC, Birmingham, 8-10th April 2025.

Nominations will close in January. Please view the categories and details of how to enter by visiting:

Fire Resilience Excellence Awards (FREAs) (sponsored by [Axa](#)) – entries close 14th January www.thefreas.com/enter

Security & Safety Entrepreneur Awards (SSEAs) entries close 21st January www.thesseas.com/enter

Workplace Violence Reduction Awards (WVRAs) (sponsored by [Maybo](#)) entries close 28th January www.thewvras.com/enter

The awards dinner will celebrate achievements across the three award schemes and offer a chance to network with colleagues while enjoying good food and entertainment. More details, along with a booking link can be found on the respective websites above.



Celebrating 20 years of the Security Research Initiative

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Security Research Initiative (SRI), a milestone we are proud to celebrate. Over the past two decades, we have developed a significant body of work on topics including security procurement, perspectives on economic and regulatory changes, the broader benefits of security, the role of security in tackling cybercrime, influences on security as a career choice, and fostering partnership working.

We created the first major reference point – a toolkit – for developing a security strategy at a time when few organisations had one, let alone an effective one. Our research into the characteristics of excellence in security led to the creation of the Outstanding Security Performance Awards (OSPAs), which now

operate globally and have inspired other ethically based award schemes, such as the Cyber OSPAs, TECAs, WVRAs, SSEAs, and FREAs.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our sponsors, past and present; the leading security associations that champion our research; and the security community, which promotes our findings, responds to our surveys, and shares invaluable insights and experiences. This collective dedication to exploring key issues and advancing best practices makes the initiative truly special, and we are immensely grateful for the support we receive.

This year, we are tackling a topic that intersects with many of those we've explored in the past: how to enhance perceptions of the work of security professionals. We look forward to engaging with you on this important subject and sharing our findings.

Current members are: Carlisle Support Services; CIS Security; G4S; Interr; M&S; PwC; Royal Mail; Securitas; SIA; and Sodexo.

To find out more about our SRI please visit: www.perpetuityresearch.com/security-research-initiative



Celebrating Secured Environment Awards in 2024

Secured Environments is built on the foundations of good security management, providing a robust framework for organisations to consider their approach. It is designed to enable organisations to identify areas for improvement and, by aligning with the requirements, work toward achieving the award. The framework operates on the principle that for security to be truly effective, everyone within an organisation must be involved at a level appropriate to their role.

This year has seen some remarkable achievements with the presentation of *new Secured Environment Awards* to prestigious flagship buildings and estates. Additionally, several universities and a prominent landmark building have successfully achieved re-accreditation for another three years—demonstrating their ongoing commitment to robust and effective security management.

Well-deserved congratulations go out to those who earned the award in 2024, including:

- **10 Marble Arch Place**
- **Paternoster Square**
- **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**
- **Leeds University Residences**
- **Lloyd’s of London**
- **20 Fenchurch Street**
- ... and more to be announced!

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to see even more organisations – universities, landmark buildings, businesses, a hospital, a shopping centre, and a public venue – embark on their journey toward *Secured Environment* accreditation. By achieving this, organisations can showcase to leadership, staff, customers, and visitors that security is a top priority, with robust systems in place to prevent and respond to potential threats effectively.

To learn more about the Secured Environment Award please visit: www.securedenvironments.com

Imminent							Zone
Good							Traveller
Coffee							Paper
Opening							Bubble
Bottom							Bill
Street							Shop
Financial							Fees
Pine							Stitch
Arctic							Back
Paper							Sample

New Year Quiz

Fit 10 six-letter words into the grid so that each links with the word on its left and beginning of the one on the right. Example: FISH [MARKET] TRADER. The letters in the shaded squares should reveal a security-related word. Please submit your one-word answer here www.surveylegend.com/s/5mao by Tuesday, 21st January. A winner will be selected at random from the correct entries and will receive a copy of the book 'Securing Mega-Events: Networks, Strategies and Tensions', by Chad Whelan and Adam Molnar, which is part of Professor Martin Gill's 'Crime Prevention and Security Management series'.

Check back at the end of this month in the January newsletter for the answer and a new quiz to enter.

The answer to Novembers quiz was 'Threat'.

Did you know? – Received too many socks for Xmas?

While it might seem strange, there are reports indicating that burglars in the UK have been known to steal unexpected items, like socks. This unusual behaviour is sometimes linked to quick grab-and-go crimes or thieves looking for easy-to-carry items. For instance, in some burglaries, particularly in areas with higher crime rates, personal belongings like socks or other small, easily concealed items may be taken either for resale or simply because they are quick to collect during a rushed break-in. While specific academic studies on this are scarce, broader burglary research consistently notes how offenders often target easily accessible or low-risk items, with some surprising choices in what gets stolen.



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