## **Companies House**

## Why Companies House can be dangerous

Companies House is a goldmine for attackers because all organisation directors and secretaries are listed as are some trustees of charities. And typically the information includes full name, full date of birth, home address and signature.

So if you're a director, secretary or trustee It's worthwhile <u>searching yourself</u> to see if you're on there.

This information can then picked up by sites like 192.com which then spread the information further.

## Removing yourself from companies house

Unfortunately removing information from Companies House is difficult because of the laws designed to keep your information available. For example, you can change your correspondence address from your home address to a company address, but on the company incorporation document your home address will still be shown.

- 1. Companies House do allow directors to change their details using <u>form CH01</u>, and corporate directors can use <u>form CH02</u>.
- 2. Companies House have more guidance for people who want to restrict access to their address because
  - They are or will be a director or permanent representative of an overseas company with a registered UK establishment and are entitled to apply to Companies House to restrict disclosure of your residential address
  - you're seeking to suppress specified addresses from continuing to be published on the public register
  - you act as an adviser to an overseas company
- 3. You then have to complete takedown requests for every company repeating this data online. Guidance on how to do this will be on each of the websites, (and they'll all be different) but we've produced a guide for 192.com to give you an idea of what to do.

Some of the common director info sites are listed below.

- bizzy.co.uk
- companycheck.co.uk
- company-director-check.co.uk
- creditgate.com
- levelbusiness.com
- 192.com
- Whitepages.com
- 4. It'll be worthwhile looking yourself up online afterwards to find any other sites holding your information and issuing requests to take it down.