

How to turn research into a security decision

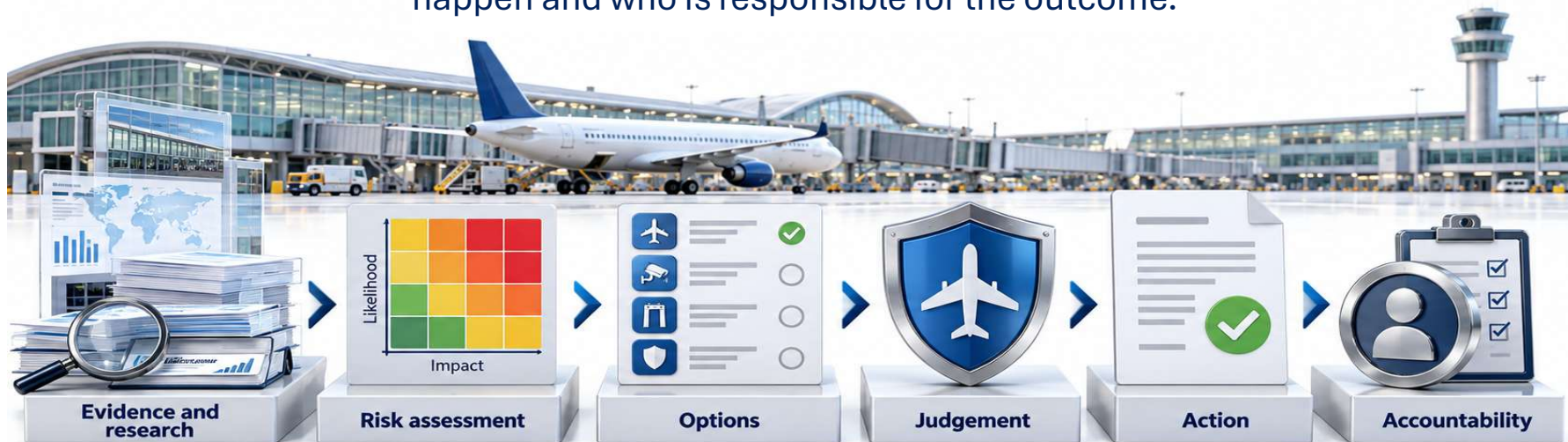
A practical method for converting evidence, analysis and judgement into proportionate security action.





What is a security decision?

A security decision determines what should happen, why it should happen and who is responsible for the outcome.



For professional discussion and reflection • Illustrative, not exhaustive • Apply alongside appropriate organisational risk, evidence and decision-making processes

Start with the decision question

A clear decision question defines what the research must help you decide.



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Define the decision owner and authority

Establish who can decide, who must be consulted and who is accountable for the outcome.



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Clarify the available options

Identify the realistic choices before selecting a preferred course of action.



Set the decision criteria

Agree how the options will be judged before reviewing the evidence.



Assemble the relevant evidence

Use evidence that is relevant, reliable, current and sufficient for the decision.



Separate evidence from assumptions

Make clear what is known, what is inferred and what remains uncertain.



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Assess risks and consequences

Consider what could happen if each option is adopted, delayed or rejected.



Test operational feasibility

A sound decision must be achievable in the operational environment.



Challenge the preferred option

Test whether the recommendation is balanced, proportionate and supported by the evidence.



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Record the judgement and rationale

Document how the evidence led to the chosen decision.



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Assign action and review

Convert the decision into owned actions with timescales, measures and review points.





The security decision checklist

Good decisions connect the question, evidence, risk, options, judgement, action and review.

