

FINANCIAL TIMES

August 7, 2011 6:09 pm

The job: Private fixer

As told to Rhymer Rigby



Ifzaal Khan, Perfect Knowledge

I do a lot of work for wealthy individuals, private banks, trusts and so on. One client recently asked me to fly over to Geneva to move a couple of million pounds from a bank account to a safe-deposit box because he was busy in meetings; I was given power of attorney to do so. I've couriered bearer bonds and jewellery, and I once delivered two clocks worth £330,000 each.

I do a lot of business-type work as well. I've acted as a kind of escrow account for transactions where the parties don't know or trust each other. I might do off-the-record preliminary meetings or represent a party who wishes to remain unknown. I recently did this at a gold refinery – because it is an industry where everyone knows everyone else and the client didn't want to jeopardise existing relationships.

For certain tasks – such as finding houses – I might use people I trust. In a lot of countries and cultures you need someone on the ground; I have a network of

freelancers. My being the client means that the actual client is doubly insulated.

You never know what you will be doing next or where. Sometimes you will fly somewhere for a day and then have to wait for 10 days in a hotel with your phone on. You're on call 24/7 until the client says it's over.

Printed from: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5845af7c-bfa8-11e0-90d5-00144feabdc0.html>

Print a single copy of this article for personal use. Contact us if you wish to print more to distribute to others.

© **THE FINANCIAL TIMES LTD 2011** FT and 'Financial Times' are trademarks of The Financial Times Ltd.