

Ex-FBI Agent Says Elon Musk Drug Habit Made Him an Easy Target for Russian Spies

Is he compromised?

by [VICTOR TANGERMANN](#)

Elon Musk's [well-documented drug use](#) made him an easy target for Russian secret service agents, former FBI agent Johnathan Buma [told German television broadcaster ZDF](#) during a recently aired documentary.

Buma said there was evidence that both he and fellow billionaire Peter Thiel were targeted by Russian operatives.

"Musk's susceptibility to promiscuous women and drug use, in particular ketamine, and his gravitation towards club life... would have been seen by Russian intelligence service as an entry point for an operative to be sent in after studying their psychological profile and find a way to bump into them, and quickly brought in to their inner circle," Buma told *ZDF*.

"I'm not allowed to discuss the details of exactly how we obtained this information," he added. "But there's a vast amount of evidence to support this fact."

Buma also corroborated the [Wall Street Journal's reporting last year](#), which found that Musk was in frequent contact with Russian president Vladimir Putin.

The news comes after Musk made a notable shift in 2022 after [supplying Ukraine](#) with thousands of SpaceX Starlink terminals. However, not long after, the mercurial CEO [became wary](#) of the additional costs his space firm was shouldering, arguing it was "[unreasonable](#)" for the company to keep supporting the growing data usage.

He reportedly met with Putin several times thereafter, something Musk has since [denied](#).

Biographer Walter Isaacson's 2023 Musk biography also revealed that he had [intentionally hamstrung](#) a Ukrainian attack on Russia's naval fleet near the Crimean coast.

Meanwhile, Musk's ample medicinal and recreational use of ketamine has drawn plenty of attention. Earlier this year, [The Atlantic reported](#) that the drug could easily allow anybody to feel like they're in charge of the whole world.

Psychopharmacology researcher Celia Morgan told the magazine at the time that those who frequently use ketamine can have "profound" short- and long-term memory issues and were "distinctly dissociated in their day-to-day existence."

In other words, it could provide Russian agents with a perfect opportunity to get closer to Musk, as Buma suggests.

It's a particularly sensitive subject. Buma was arrested shortly after his interview with [ZDF](#) in March. His passport was confiscated and was temporarily released on bail.

To Buma, it's the "greatest failing" of the United States' counterespionage efforts.

Despite his [popularity dropping off a cliff](#) due to his embrace of far-right extremist ideals and his work for the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, Musk maintains plenty of influence in Washington, DC.

Earlier this month, he [traveled to the Middle East](#) alongside president Donald Trump, meeting Qatari officials and dozens of CEOs.

The former FBI agent's comments leave plenty of questions unanswered. Does Putin's spy agency have dirt on the mercurial CEO? Could they be blackmailing him?

Put simply, could Musk really be compromised?

Considering the stakes, it's unlikely we'll ever get any clear-cut answers. But given his penchant for partying and using mind-altering drugs, he's certainly not the most difficult target to get close to for foreign operatives.

More on Musk: [Elon Musk's AI Just Went There](#)