



INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT



PRESS NOTICE - 16 October 2025

The Rt Hon. the Lord Beamish PC, Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC), has today provided the following press notice on behalf of the Committee:

“In relation to the discontinuance of the prosecution of UK nationals arrested on suspicion of spying for China, the Committee can today confirm that it has received the intelligence background behind the case.

The Committee has agreed that it will investigate how that classified material was then used.

The ISC has statutory authority under the Justice and Security Act 2013. The Act gives it the legal power to require information from the UK Intelligence Community: MI5, SIS, GCHQ, the central machinery in the Cabinet Office (including the National Security Adviser and the Deputy National Security Adviser) and also HSG, DI and NCF all answer to the ISC. The CPS does not fall within the remit of the ISC, and the Committee will not therefore be considering the actions of the CPS.

As is standard practice for the Committee when it investigates matters falling within its remit, it will follow the evidence wherever necessary, and report to Parliament as appropriate.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC) is a statutory committee of Parliament. It is not a Select Committee and has quite different powers and responsibilities.
2. The Committee has responsibility for oversight of the intelligence and security activities of the UK Government. Established by the Intelligence Services Act 1994, it was reformed, and its powers significantly reinforced, by the Justice and Security Act 2013.
3. The Committee oversees the policies, expenditure, administration and operations of the UK Intelligence Community. This includes the intelligence Agencies - MI5, SIS (the Secret Intelligence Service or MI6) and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) - as well as: the Joint Intelligence Organisation and the National Security Secretariat in the Cabinet Office; Defence Intelligence in the Ministry of Defence; Homeland Security Group in the Home Office; and the National Cyber Force.
4. The Committee can require information to be provided to it. (The limited exception is in relation to information on ongoing intelligence and security operations - the Committee can still examine such material, however it is provided voluntarily rather than it being mandatory.)
5. The Committee consists of nine Members drawn from both Houses of Parliament, and appointed by Parliament, with the Chair being elected by its Members. The Committee was reconstituted in December 2024, following the July 2024 General Election, and its Members are:

The Rt Hon. the Lord Beamish PC (Chairman)
The Rt Hon. Sir Jeremy Wright KC MP (Deputy Chairman)
Baroness Brown of Cambridge DBE FREng FRS
Peter Dowd MP
Richard Foord MP
The Rt Hon. Sir John Hayes CBE MP
Jessica Morden MP
Derek Twigg MP
Admiral The Rt Hon. Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC PC.

6. The Members of the Committee are subject to Section 1(1)(b) of the Official Secrets Act 1989 and are routinely given access to highly classified material in carrying out their duties.
7. The Committee sets its own agenda and work programme. It takes evidence from Government Ministers, the Heads of the intelligence and security Agencies, officials from across the UK Intelligence Community, and other witnesses as required. The Committee makes an Annual Report on the discharge of its functions and also produces Reports on specific issues.
8. The Committee's dedicated Press Officer can be reached at:
Katie.Armour@cabinetoffice.gov.uk or 07543 302826.