



INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT



PRESS NOTICE - 10 February 2026

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

“Further to the Committee’s letter to the Prime Minister of 5 February and his response to us on 6 February, asking the Cabinet Secretary to meet the Committee to discuss what the ISC requires in order to fulfill its role in relation to the Humble Address, the Committee has today held an extraordinary meeting.

The full Committee was in attendance. From the Government, the Cabinet Secretary had been due to attend but was unavailable at the last minute. In his place the Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary attended, with the FCDO Permanent Secretary, the Deputy National Security Adviser and the Acting Director General Propriety and Ethics. The Committee is issuing this statement directly following the meeting to record what happened and to ensure that there continues to be maximum transparency to Parliament and the public on this matter.

- Officials told the Committee, on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, that the first step for Government is to agree a framework with the Metropolitan Police Service, in accordance with which documents can be released without prejudicing police investigations.*
- Officials said that the next step for Government will be to decide what documents are within scope of the Humble Address. The Committee made clear to officials that - as set out in its letter to the Prime Minister - Parliament has not given the ISC the task of determining what papers are within scope of the Humble Address. That is solely for the Government to determine: the Committee is not acting as an adviser to the Government on this matter.*
- Officials told the Committee that once they have decided what documents are within scope, the next step will be for Government to determine which of those papers cannot be released because they would prejudice the UK's national security or international relations. The role given to the ISC by Parliament is to consider that subset of papers (which Government has assessed cannot be released). The ISC will consider those papers and will reach a decision as to whether the material within them does indeed need to be withheld from Parliament or whether it should be released.*

The Committee is now awaiting receipt of the papers from Government once they have worked through the above three steps: to be clear, no papers have yet been received by the Committee.

The Committee has requested that those papers relating to the vetting and appointment of Lord Mandelson are prioritised for release to the Committee.

The Committee has also requested an early indication of the number of documents expected to be passed to the Committee, such that the Committee can determine what resources it will require to undertake the task given to it by Parliament.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC) is a statutory Committee of Parliament. It is not a Select Committee.
2. The Committee consists of nine Members drawn from both Houses of Parliament, and appointed by Parliament. The Chair is elected by its Members.
3. The Committee oversees the intelligence and security activities of the UK Intelligence Community. The Committee was originally established by the Intelligence Services Act 1994, and was reformed, and its powers reinforced, by the Justice and Security Act 2013.
4. Its remit includes oversight of the policies, expenditure, administration and operations of MI5, MI6 (the Secret Intelligence Service or SIS) and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), and the work of the other parts of the Intelligence Community, including the Joint Intelligence Organisation and the National Security Secretariat in the Cabinet Office; Defence Intelligence in Ministry of Defence; and Homeland Security Group in the Home Office.
5. The Members of the Committee are subject to Section I(1)(b) of the Official Secrets Act 1989 and are routinely given access to highly classified material in carrying out their duties.
6. The current Members of the Committee 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. the Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC PC.

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 (Alex Hunt) can be reached at:
Alexander.Hunt1@cabinetoffice.gov.uk or 07873 702652.