



Who we are

MI5 is the UK's national security intelligence agency

MI5 is responsible for countering [threats to national security](#), including terrorism, espionage, cyber threats and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. To read more, see [what we do](#).


People

MI5 is led by [Director General](#) Andrew Parker. We employ around 4,000 staff who are [organised into nine branches](#), each with specific areas of responsibility.

Location

MI5's headquarters are at [Thames House](#) in London. We also have eight regional offices and a headquarters in Northern Ireland.

History

MI5 has played a vital and secret role in countering the activities of spies and terrorists for over a century. Since the late 1990s we have been releasing historical files to the [National Archives](#) . These files provide an insight into the work of MI5 and a behind-the-scenes look at famous spy cases from the 20th century.

You can find more information about MI5's past and evolution in our [history pages](#).



Key points

- Responsible for countering threats to national security
- Employs around 4,000 staff at several offices in the UK
- Organised into nine branches by area of responsibility