



INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT



PRESS RELEASE

At a meeting of the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament earlier today, the Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP informed the Committee that he had decided to step down from the role of Chairman with effect from the end of the meeting, and would be making a public statement to that effect. The Committee accepted the Chairman's decision.

At the meeting, the Committee completed its major Inquiry into Privacy and Security, and its Report will now be sent to the Prime Minister. Given that that concludes the substantive work of the Committee in this Parliament, and that the Committee has no further formal meetings scheduled before the prorogation of Parliament, the Committee decided that there was therefore no need for it to elect a new Chairman for the remaining few weeks. All further matters which arise during the life of this Parliament will be dealt with by the Committee as a whole.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The ISC was established in 1994 under the Intelligence Services Act, and was reformed under the Justice and Security Act 2013. This legislation made the ISC a statutory committee of Parliament and strengthened its powers. The Committee now has greater access to information, including primary material held within the Agencies. Its remit has also been expanded to include oversight of intelligence and security operations, and oversight of all intelligence and security activities of Government.

2. The ISC is a cross-party committee of nine parliamentarians from the Commons and the Lords. The Committee's membership is as follows:

The Rt. Hon. Lord Butler KG GCB CVO

The Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears MP

The Rt. Hon. George Howarth MP

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Lothian QC PC

The Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir Menzies Campbell CH CBE QC, MP

Dr Julian Lewis MP

Mr Mark Field MP

Ms Fiona Mactaggart MP

3. The completion of the Committee's Inquiry into Privacy and Security marks the end of a major piece of work which began in July 2013. The ISC has since taken evidence from a wide range of witnesses, from Ministers to academics and campaign groups, including in public sessions held in October 2014. In line with its procedures, the completed report is now being sent to the Prime Minister and a version will be published before the end of March.