



Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office  
PO Box 29105, London  
SW1V 1ZU

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hermer KC  
Attorney General  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9EA

17 December 2025

Dear Attorney General,

**Investigation into the provision of false evidence to the High Court and Investigatory Powers Tribunal in relation to Agent X – Update**

I am writing to you further to my letter of 1 October 2025, to provide an update on the progress of the above investigation led by Sir John Goldring.

A great many documents additional to those provided to the Divisional Court and the IPT have been sought and reviewed. In addition, while Sir John has already received often detailed and lengthy responses to numerous requests for information, that information and the interviews which he has conducted have led to the identification of additional lines of enquiry. The information requested has ranged from specific identified documents to broad disclosure of relevant material within defined date parameters. Sir John continues to consider any further disclosure requests which may be required in light of recent interviews.

Over the past five weeks some 36 relevant individuals have been interviewed. These individuals include current and former staff of the intelligence services, Government Legal Department and the BBC. It also includes counsel instructed on behalf of the Government in the legal proceedings in question. While it is anticipated that this phase of the investigation will be substantially complete by the end of this week, in the event of further interviews being needed, they should be completed early in the New Year.

As I noted in my previous update, the exercise of carrying out interviews has posed enormous logistical challenges. They have been surmounted only through the diligent endeavours of a very small number of individuals at IPCO and the public authorities we oversee, who have

provided this support in addition to their regular responsibilities and often under extreme time pressure. I am extremely grateful to them.

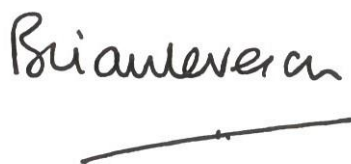
Finally, as a further measure to seek to ensure that he receives everything relevant to the investigation, Sir John has asked that a message be disseminated to all current MI5 staff, inviting any individuals who believe they have information which may assist, to contact Sir John and his team. I am grateful for MI5's prompt and constructive engagement to achieve this.

To date, I remain satisfied with the level of cooperation with Sir John's investigation. However, relevant material continues to be identified, both at IPCO's request and through the efforts of those responsible for engaging with the investigation. That the latter remains the case, some four years after injunction proceedings were commenced and over three years after my inspectors first considered the Agent X case, is surprising.

As outlined above, the investigation team has achieved a significant amount in the fourteen weeks since I received the Prime Minister's Direction. I know that Sir John is anxious to complete his work as quickly as possible. He presently anticipates completing the first draft of the report in mid-March 2026. Of course, as you are aware, there are then several additional processes over which I have limited control which must be completed before any report can be finalised or made public in any form.

This letter is copied to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the Director General of MI5. Please note that I have written in the same terms to the President of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. A copy of this letter will also be provided to the Centre for Women's Justice, given the impact the investigation may have on the progress of their client's claim before the Investigatory Powers Tribunal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Brian Leveson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**The Rt. Hon. Sir Brian Leveson**  
Investigatory Powers Commissioner