

Security Service (MI5)

My oversight of MI5 in 2013 occurred as follows:

Pre-reading days: 4 July and 27 - 28 November

Inspection Days: 11 July and 5 December

'Under-the-bonnet' visit: 6 December

Open:

My inspection visit to MI5 began with a general update from the Deputy Director General regarding current threats to the UK and subsequent priorities of MI5.

(July: The DDG began with a formal threat assessment nationally and internationally and event since my last inspection [REDACTED])

Notes of Inspection. Action Points and/or Closed Report

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COVERT HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE

CHIS Participation in Criminality

[REDACTED] CHIS participate in criminality. For example, [REDACTED]

We discussed the difficult decisions that MI5 make [REDACTED]

I was briefed about a case were participation in criminality [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As part of my oversight, I am not concerned if CHIS go ahead with criminal activity. Instead I am looking at the public interest of [REDACTED] [using CHIS who participate in criminality]

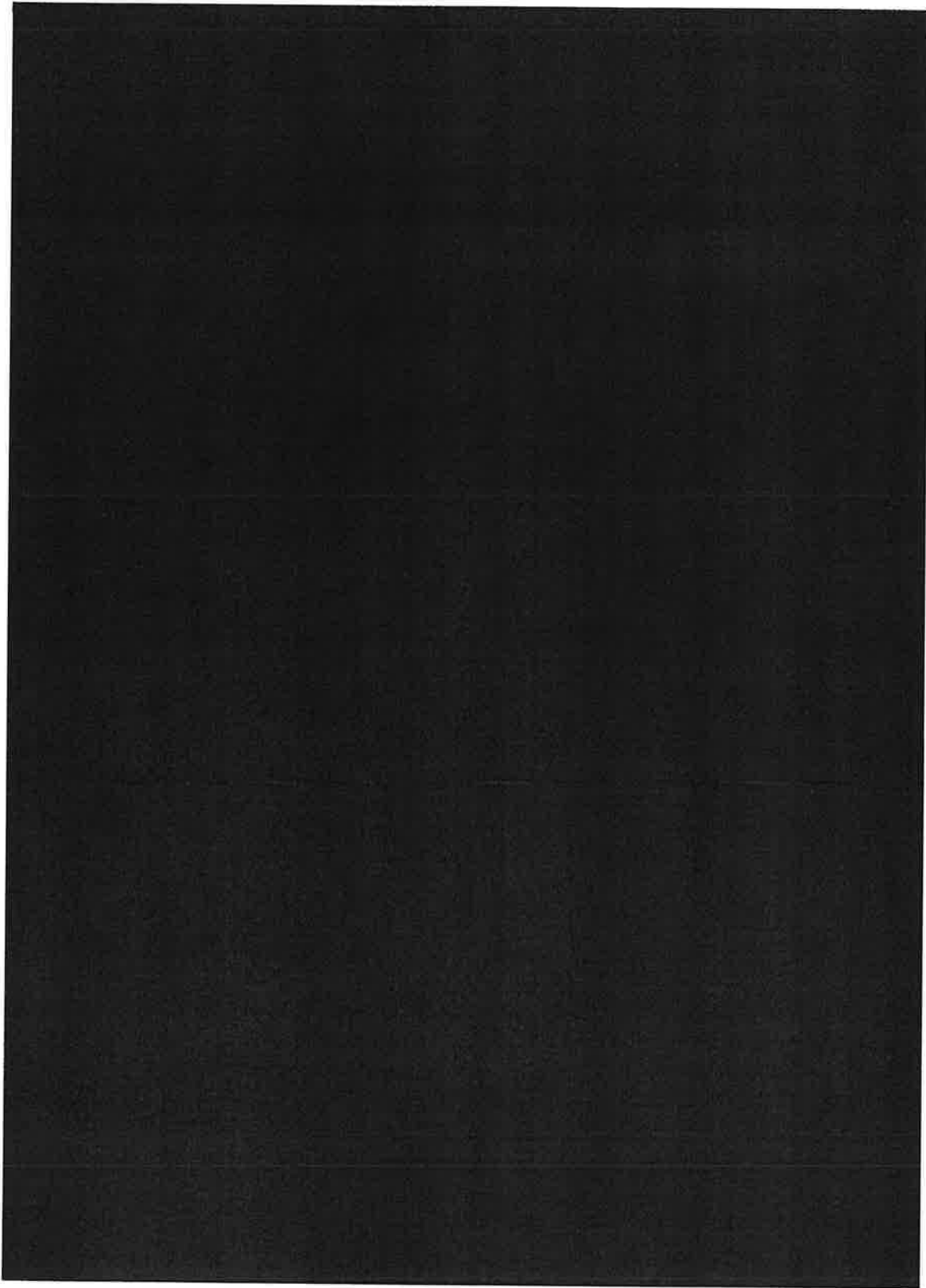
[REDACTED]

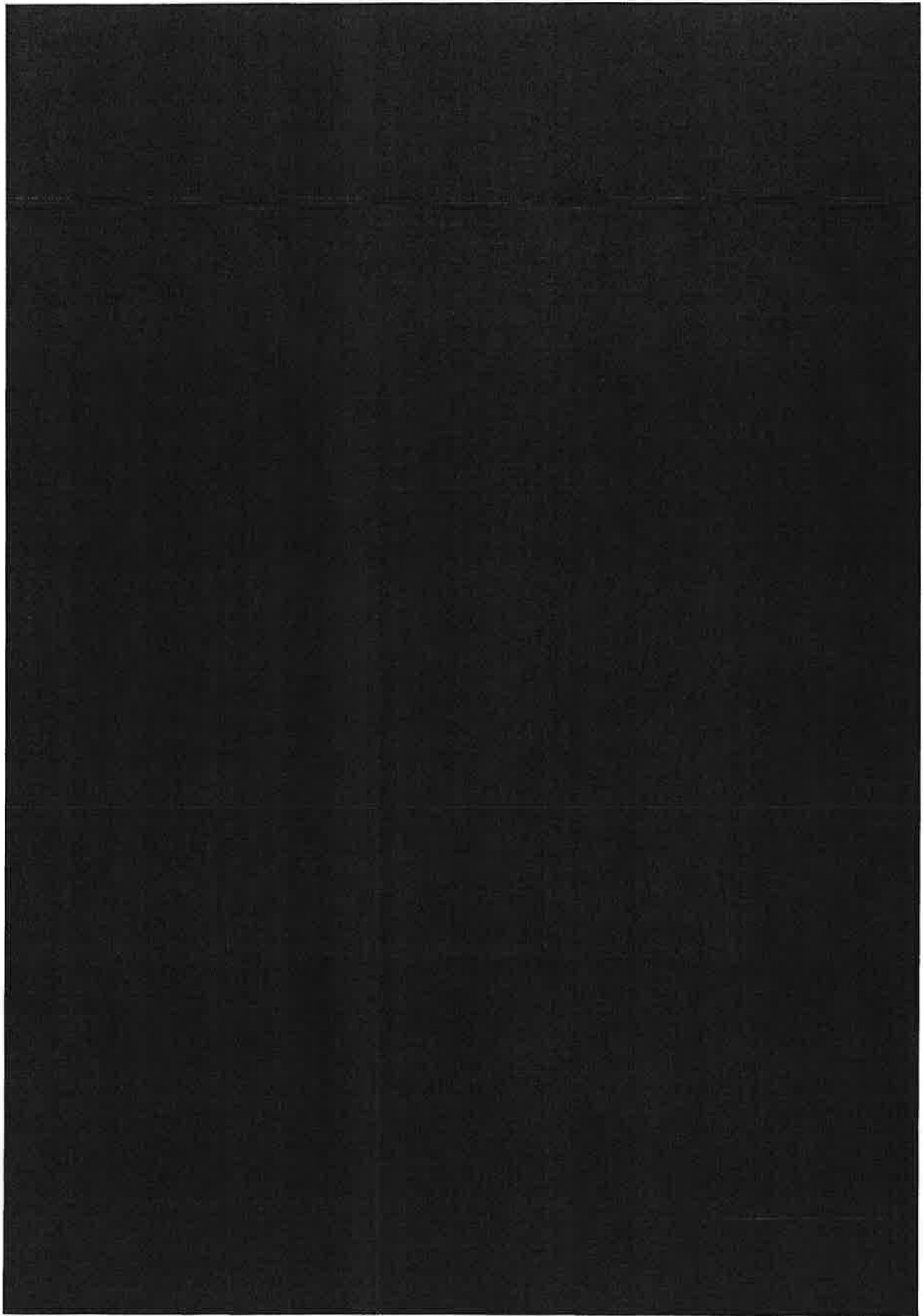
[REDACTED]

I was provided with a copy of their official guidance: "Guidance on the use of Agents who participate in Criminality".

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CHIS Participation in Criminality

I am now required to conduct oversight of this in MI5 ie:

- Is it reasonable to authorise [REDACTED]

[participation in criminality where authorisation has the effect set out in paragraph 9 of the Guidelines?]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[A balance needs to be struck between the objectives and the criminality, as set out in paragraph 8 of the Guidelines.]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[The redacted
text sets out the
the
Commissioner's
understanding of
the issues set out
in paragraph 9 of
the Guidelines.]

Some of the cases I saw looked very broad but MI5 explained [REDACTED] as well as the necessity and proportionality for the cases.

[REDACTED]

Future of Oversight

[REDACTED]

Talking to people in the business is also important. MI5 agreed and suggested inviting observers in future.

[REDACTED]