# BBC accuses MI5 of deliberate falsehoods in neo-Nazi agent court case



In a significant legal confrontation, the BBC has accused MI5 of consistently providing false evidence in an ongoing court case concerning a neo-Nazi agent accused of abusing women. During proceedings at the High Court, the broadcaster asserted that MI5's misstatements were not mere oversights but a deliberate effort to obfuscate the agency's involvement in protecting the agent, known only as "X". Sir James Eadie KC, representing MI5, issued an unreserved apology on behalf of the Security Service but insisted that the errors were not intentional. The three-judge panel, including Lady Chief Justice Baroness Sue Carr and President of the King's Bench Division Dame Victoria Sharp, has reserved its judgement on the case for a later date.

This case has roots extending back to 2022, when the BBC endeavoured to report on the activities of X, a violent individual purportedly employed as a state agent by MI5. Initially, MI5 maintained its core secrecy policy of neither confirming nor denying the agent's status. However, as the BBC produced evidence including recorded phone calls revealing that an MI5 officer had inadvertently confirmed the agent's identity, the credibility of MI5's claims began to unravel. The agency ultimately conceded that it could no longer uphold its "neither confirm nor deny" policy in relation to this case, which has widely drawn criticism due to the agent's alleged history of coercing his former girlfriend, referred to as "Beth".

The BBC’s barrister, Jude Bunting KC, pointed out what he described as "copious levels of dishonesty" in MI5's handling of the situation. He stressed that the court has not received a complete picture of the circumstances surrounding the inaccuracies, raising concerns over transparency within the agency. Charlotte Kilroy KC, representing Beth, echoed similar sentiments, asserting her client believes the threshold for contempt of court proceedings against MI5 has indeed been met.

The gravity of this situation has prompted a wider governmental inquiry into MI5's conduct, spearheaded by Interior Minister Yvette Cooper. This inquiry aims to dissect whether the dissemination of false information was a deliberate act to safeguard the agency's interests or a case of inadvertent error. MI5's leadership, including Director General Ken McCallum, has faced unprecedented scrutiny as a result, marking this incident as a critical moment in the agency's history concerning accountability and trustworthiness.

Previous reports indicate that MI5 has a track record of utilising the "neither confirm nor deny" policy extensively, which allows the agency to evade revealing its operations. However, the current claims of dishonesty and subsequent acknowledgment of giving incorrect evidence present a stark challenge to this long-standing practice. Legal experts observe that the outcomes of these proceedings could set precedents for future interactions between the Security Service and the judicial system, potentially reshaping the landscape of accountability for intelligence agencies in the UK.

As the case unfolds, it echoes broader concerns about the need for transparency and ethical responsibility in intelligence operations. The enduring question remains: how will this admission affect public perception of MI5's integrity and its approach towards handling sensitive information, particularly when the rights and safety of individuals are at stake?

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4ge87g2lngo), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/30d966ec-16fb-416f-8556-bc297f45a78a)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4ge87g2lngo), [[5]](https://www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk/news/2025/2/12/mi5-misled-multiple-courts-about-informant-who-abused-women), [[6]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mi5-secret-service-high-court-b2696813.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/12/mi5-courts-false-evidence-neo-nazi-agent-judge-rules), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-spy-chief-apologises-giving-courts-incorrect-information-over-bbc-report-2025-02-12/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4ge87g2lngo), [[5]](https://www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk/news/2025/2/12/mi5-misled-multiple-courts-about-informant-who-abused-women)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-spy-chief-apologises-giving-courts-incorrect-information-over-bbc-report-2025-02-12/), [[7]](https://www.inkl.com/news/mi5-gave-courts-false-evidence-about-abusive-neo-nazi-agent-judge-rules)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4ge87g2lngo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/12/mi5-courts-false-evidence-neo-nazi-agent-judge-rules> - A High Court judge has found that MI5 provided false evidence to three courts regarding its handling of a neo-Nazi agent alleged to have attacked his partner. The government has ordered an inquiry to determine whether the false information was deliberate or an innocent mistake. The case revolves around a BBC investigation into a neo-Nazi agent used by MI5, who is alleged to have been violent towards and psychologically traumatised his partner. MI5's director general, Ken McCallum, issued a rare apology for the false information provided to the courts.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-spy-chief-apologises-giving-courts-incorrect-information-over-bbc-report-2025-02-12/> - MI5 chief Ken McCallum issued a public apology after the agency provided incorrect information to London's High Court regarding a BBC report on a violent right-wing extremist informant, Agent X. The BBC was unable to name the man due to an injunction based on the agency's 'neither confirm nor deny' (NCND) policy, which was later breached by an MI5 officer. British interior minister Yvette Cooper has commissioned an external review to investigate and prevent similar incidents. The BBC alleged Agent X used his spy status to intimidate his girlfriend, whom he attacked with a machete.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/30d966ec-16fb-416f-8556-bc297f45a78a> - MI5 has admitted to providing 'incorrect information' to the English courts in a case concerning an agent accused of domestic abuse. Director-general Sir Ken McCallum offered an 'unreserved apology' after the BBC reported that MI5 had misled the court to protect the identity of an agent who attacked his girlfriend with a machete. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has ordered a review into the service's actions. The domestic intelligence agency originally claimed it had not confirmed the agent's status to the BBC, but it was later revealed that MI5 had disclosed this information to a journalist.
5. <https://www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk/news/2025/2/12/mi5-misled-multiple-courts-about-informant-who-abused-women> - Lawyers acting for the Attorney General were forced to answer questions in the High Court after it was revealed that a deputy director of MI5 made a false statement in proceedings about an MI5 recruit who terrorised his girlfriend, 'Beth'. MI5 has now issued an 'unreserved apology' to the BBC accepting that three separate courts were misled by their witness, acknowledging that what happened was a 'serious error' for which 'MI5 takes full responsibility'.
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mi5-secret-service-high-court-b2696813.html> - MI5 has been forced to admit it 'misled' the High Court during a bid to prevent the BBC from identifying a suspected Security Service informant. In 2022, the government attempted to stop the BBC from airing a programme that would name a neo-Nazi state agent who allegedly abused two women and is a covert human intelligence source. An order was made by a High Court judge in April 2022 to prevent the corporation from disclosing information likely to identify the man. However, Mr Justice Chamberlain said the BBC could still air the programme and the key issues, without identifying him, referring to them only as 'X'.
7. <https://www.inkl.com/news/mi5-gave-courts-false-evidence-about-abusive-neo-nazi-agent-judge-rules> - A High Court judge has found that MI5 gave false evidence to three courts as it faced scrutiny over its handling of a neo-Nazi agent alleged to have attacked his partner. The government has ordered an inquiry to determine whether the false information was deliberate and therefore a lie, or an innocent mistake, as the Security Service has told ministers it was. The case revolves around a BBC investigation into a neo-Nazi agent used by MI5, who is alleged to have been violent towards and psychologically traumatised his partner.