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the intelligence ombudsman

The Intelligence Ombudsman is tasked with supervising the legality of intelligence gathering methods and the use of intelligence, as well as the legality of other intelligence operations conducted by the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service and the military intelligence authorities.

The Ombudsman is also tasked with supervising the realisation of fundamental and human rights in intelligence activities, promoting the realisation of legal protection and adherence to related best practices in intelligence activities, and monitoring and assessing the functionality of legislation in the Ombudsman's purview and proposing improvements when necessary.

The Intelligence Ombudsman

The Intelligence Ombudsman operates independently. The Ombudsman is appointed by the government for a five-year term, after giving the Intelligence Oversight Committee of Parliament the opportunity to state its opinion on the matter. Kimmo Hakonen took office as Intelligence Ombudsman on 1.5.2019.

The duties and powers of the Intelligence Ombudsman are based on Intelligence Oversight Act No. 121 of 2019.

Function of the Ombudsman

The Office of the Intelligence Ombudsman was established in 2019. In addition to the Intelligence Ombudsman, the Office of the Intelligence Ombudsman employs a Chief Specialist, a Senior Specialist and an Administrative Assistant. All officials employed by the Office of the Intelligence Ombudsman are required to be Finnish citizens, and they are subject to extensive security clearance vetting in the context of national and international information security obligations. The Intelligence Ombudsman comes under the Ministry of Justice and is attached to the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman.



Complaints and investigation requests

The Intelligence Ombudsman can only investigate complaints or investigation requests about activities falling under the Ombudsman's authority of oversight. Anyone who considers that their rights have been infringed in the course of intelligence activities or such operations have otherwise broken the law can file a complaint to the Intelligence Ombudsman in matters falling under the Ombudsman's powers of oversight. A person subjected to intelligence gathering or who suspects that they have been subjected to intelligence gathering can ask the Intelligence Ombudsman to investigate the lawfulness of the use of such methods.

You must make your complaint or investigation request in writing. It must indicate the name and contact details of the complainant or person making the investigation request. Anonymous messages will not be processed as complaints, but information in such messages may be taken into account when targeting the Intelligence Ombudsman's supervision activities.



Office of the Intelligence Ombudsman

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