Sweden's national intelligence strategy

Summary version



Government Offices of Sweden

A strategy for Sweden's reformed intelligence community

In the face of a deteriorating and changing security environment the Government has initiated a modernization of the Swedish intelligence system. The reform program is a broad, long-term endeavour aiming for a stronger and more closely coordinated intelligence community that supports Swedish foreign, security and defence policy and Swedish national interests.

As part of the reform effort the Government, to date, has reinforced national coordination of security matters, including intelligence matters; conducted a review of the intelligence system; and launched a reorganization of external intelligence.

The reorganisation is creating conditions for a clearer allocation of tasks, wherein each government agency can set priorities within its area of responsibility – whether civilian or military.

In August 2026 the Government adopted Sweden's first public national intelligence strategy to provide a conceptual framework for the overall effort. By clarifying the Government's guiding principles and main priorities, the strategy sets the direction for ongoing as well as future work.

This strategy applies through 2030, but will be reviewed as necessary. More extensive follow-up should take place before the end of its period of validity.

The Swedish intelligence community

From 1 January 2027, the core of the Swedish intelligence community will consist of four government agencies with intelligence and security missions to meet national needs:

- From 1 January 2027, the Swedish Foreign Intelligence Service will be a government agency whose primary task is foreign intelligence.
- The Swedish Armed Forces will continue to conduct military intelligence focused on military-strategic, operational, tactical and military-technical levels, and will also continue to contribute to foreign intelligence.
- The National Defence Radio Establishment (FRA) is tasked with conducting foreign signals intelligence in support of Swedish foreign, security and defence policy. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has been part of the National Defence Radio Establishment since 2024.
- The Swedish Security Service is tasked with conducting intelligence and security work, primarily in the areas of counterespionage, counterterrorism and protection of the constitution. The Security Service also houses the National Centre for Terrorist Threat Assessment (NCT).

In addition to the four core agencies mentioned above, two government agencies conduct foreign intelligence as part of their mandate. The Defence Materiel Administration conducts technical intelligence focused on the military materiel systems of foreign powers. The Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) contributes its technical know-how and expertise in specific areas.

Other government agencies provide relevant information for the assessment of national risks and vulnerabilities. These include the Swedish Police Authority, Swedish Customs, the Swedish Coast Guard, the Inspectorate of Strategic Products, the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency and the Psychological Defence Agency. These agencies cooperate closely with intelligence and security services in various fields such as law enforcement, maritime security, sanctions compliance and border control.

The Swedish intelligence community

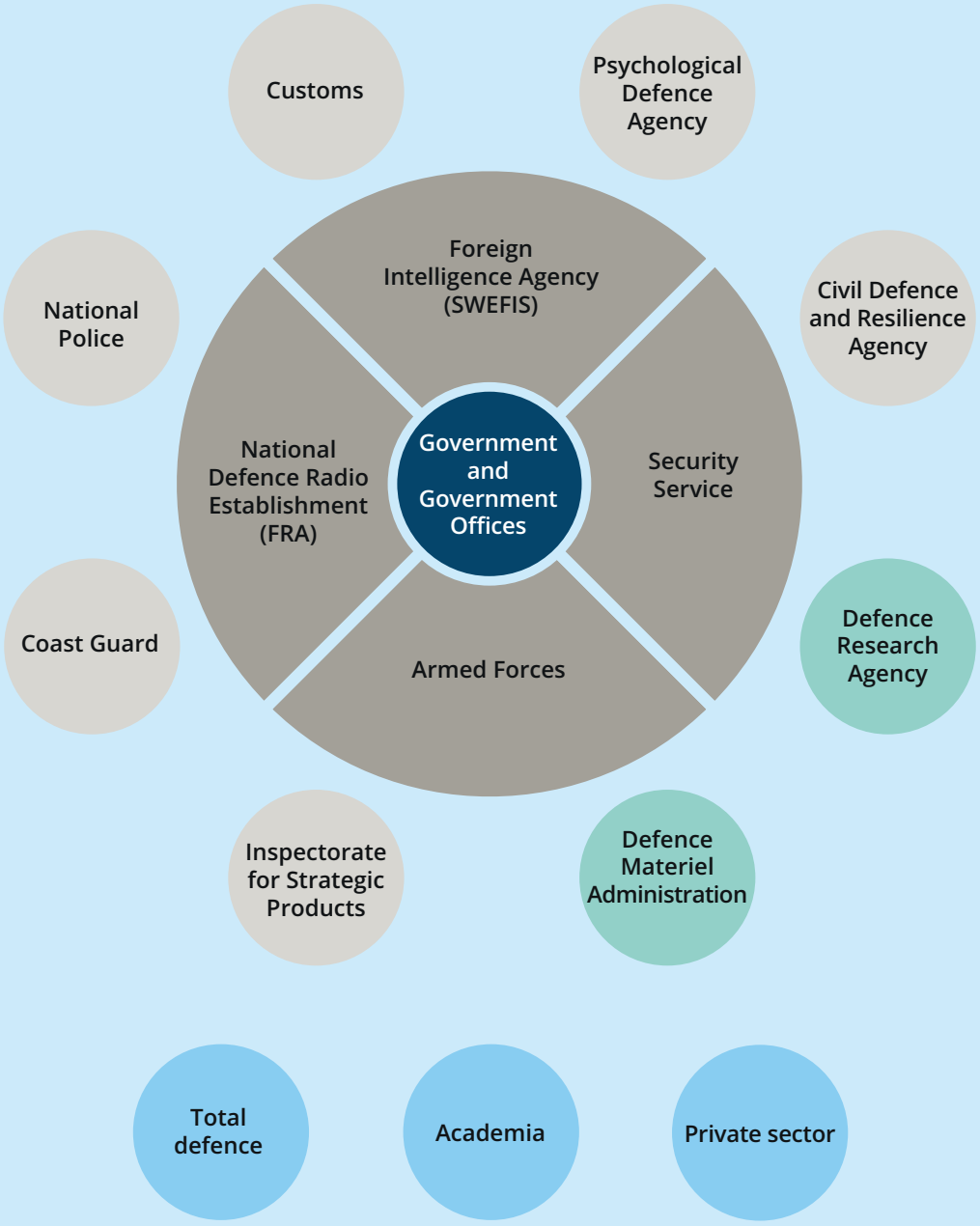

Illustration: Government Offices of Sweden

Guiding principles for the national intelligence community

Urgency and pragmatism:

Relevant intelligence must reach the right user at the right time and in the right format. There is a need for close dialogue on intelligence requirements between intelligence producers and consumers, and a holistic perspective on internal security and external threats.

Capacity to act and decisiveness under uncertainty:

The intelligence community must enhance its focus on actionable intelligence. The community must also act with high integrity.

Robustness and adaptability:

The intelligence community must be able to operate at all conflict levels. The community must also have the capacity to utilise technological developments. They must also maintain and develop its capabilities in that area.

A whole of society approach:

The intelligence community is part of, and contributes to, Sweden's total defence. This concept implies that all functions of society, both military and civilian, are included in the defence efforts in a state of war or emergency. The intelligence community must also strengthen cooperation with academia and the private sector.

International cooperation:

The intelligence agencies' international cooperation must be conducted and developed within the overarching priorities of Swedish foreign, defence and security policy. Stronger intelligence capabilities and a stronger systemic perspective increase Swedish independence while enabling important contributions to the joint security of Sweden and its Allies.

Prioritised areas of development for the national intelligence community 2026–2030

Innovation and adoption of new technologies

The intelligence reform is closely linked to a technological upgrade and improved digital capability in the intelligence community. Developments in AI and space capabilities are already creating extensive opportunities and challenges. The Government will work to ensure that the Swedish intelligence community: quickly implements new technologies; has common and interoperable digital infrastructure solutions; acts jointly in relation to the private sector; and contributes to technological development through strengthened cooperation with Swedish companies, including startups and the private equity and venture capital industry.

Cooperation on personnel and key competencies

Skills supply is a key challenge facing an expanding Swedish intelligence community. To this end, the relevant government agencies should share and utilise know-how and experience between agencies. The Government will work to ensure that the Swedish intelligence community builds up relevant know-how and expertise; develops international cooperation with the aim of upskilling; and develops cooperation with the private sector and research environments.

Stronger international cooperation

The Government will work to ensure that the Swedish intelligence community: remains a trusted and active partner; maintains and develops international relations, primarily with relevant countries in the Nordic region, the EU and NATO; and develops intelligence diplomacy.

Increased cooperation within total defence

The Government will work to ensure that the Swedish intelligence community strengthens collaboration with actors within Sweden's total defence and contributes to strengthening protective security work. Likewise, total defence actors are expected to contribute information that may be of relevance to intelligence agencies in making assessments and analyses.

Transparency and democratic oversight of intelligence

Public confidence in intelligence is of critical importance to a democratic system. Like all other central government agencies, intelligence and security services are governed by the general regulatory frameworks that apply to central government agencies. Intelligence that is conducted in support of Swedish foreign, security and defence policy and for the identification of external threats to Sweden is regulated under the Foreign Intelligence Act (2000:130) and the Foreign Intelligence Ordinance (2000:131). The Government specifies which government agencies conduct foreign intelligence in the Ordinance. An inquiry to review the regulation of the Swedish Security Service's mandate and activities as a national security service has been launched. The aim of the inquiry is to clarify the Swedish Security Service's role and to create better conditions to conduct intelligence. However, to safeguard methods, sources and potential vulnerabilities, intelligence work must be conducted without detailed public insight. Instead, oversight takes place through special authorisation procedures and reviews by special supervisory bodies with insight into the activities.

- The Swedish Foreign Intelligence Inspectorate is tasked with verifying that government agencies that conduct foreign intelligence comply with Swedish legislation and fulfil their other obligations.
- The Foreign Intelligence Court examines cases concerning permission for signals intelligence.
- The Agency for Oversight of Privacy Protection in Law Enforcement oversees law enforcement authorities' (including the Swedish Security Service's) use of coercive measures and reviews the Swedish Security Service's processing of personal data.

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