

German and British Spy Services in 'Biggest Rift' Since World War II, Claim Sources

By [Joseph Fitsanakis](#)

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A reported discord between British and German intelligence services, which began in 2014, allegedly persists and now constitutes the “biggest rift between [the] secret services” of the two countries “since World War II”.

According to British newspaper The Daily Mail, the Germans accuse Britain of working with the United States to spy on Berlin, while the British government says German intelligence agencies cannot be trusted to safeguard classified information. In an [article](#) published on Thursday, The Daily Mail said British and American intelligence agencies have stopped sharing non-critical intelligence with their German counterparts.

The lack of cooperation “has now reached the point where there is virtual radio silence” between German and Anglo-American intelligence agencies, said the newspaper, citing “a source familiar” with the ongoing negotiations between the two sides.

German spies 'can't be trusted': Relations between the UK and Berlin intelligence chiefs hit after comments by London

- **Germany's spy agency BND is being frozen out by GCHQ as well as in America**
- **Both believe insecure servers have led to Wikileaks taking classified documents**
- **Berlin officials are angry that secret intelligence data has not been handed over**
- **The freeze-out also applies to the Metropolitan Police and UK Border Force**

In 2014, Germany [expelled](#) the most senior American intelligence officer stationed in the country after it confirmed that the United States National Security Agency had [spied on German citizens](#), and had even targeted the personal communications of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Berlin also caught a German intelligence officer who was spying for the Central Intelligence Agency. It was later alleged that Washington [threatened](#) to end all intelligence cooperation with Berlin if the German government offered protection to American defector Edward Snowden. Some German lawmakers had suggested that Berlin should reach out to Snowden, in return for information about US intelligence operations against Germany. In March of last year, the German broadsheet *Süddeutsche*

Zeitung [said](#) that officials in Berlin had accused Britain of participating in American spy operations against Germany. The resulting dispute between Britain and Germany, said the paper, had turned into a “burgeoning crisis” that threatened intelligence-sharing between London and Berlin.

According to *The Daily Mail*, British intelligence agencies are now accusing their German counterparts of not properly safeguarding classified information that is shared with them by British security services. Consequently, claim the British, some of that information has found its way to WikiLeaks, the international whistleblower website founded by Australian former computer hacker Julian Assange. The London-based newspaper claims that British and German intelligence officials have met twice since 2014 to discuss ways of resolving the differences between their respective intelligence agencies. But the meetings have failed to mend the division between the parties and the crisis persists, claims *The Daily Mail*.

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